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The Year in Review

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DECEMBER 24, 2010

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THE YEAR IN ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
From *The Social Network* and the breakout success of famous college rapper Sam Adams to the return of James Levine and the unveiling of the MFA's new Art of the Americas Wing, Boston was once again in the national arts spotlight this year. Our critics break down the best of 2010, from mainstream Dutch rap (page 38) to weirded-out American pop (page 28). Prepare to argue with us over the year's best movies (page 19), video games (page 22), theater (page 23), dance (page 24), visual art (page 25), books (26), Boston rock albums (page 30), local rap albums (page 37), jazz (page 32), and classical (page 35). Bonus round: check out the year in tongue-twistingly obscure music subgenres (page 38), then head online for even more.

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ONLINE EXCLUSIVES @ thePhoenix.com

AULD LANG SYNERGY! Our page 16 rundown of Boston's best/swankest/weirdest New Year's Eve shindigs is already pretty massive – but it's only scratching the surface. Find more NYE listings than you can shake a huge novelty glowstick at, at thePhoenix.com/newyears.

NEW (PIXILATED) HOTNESS! Because you've been extra-good this year: unwrap our annual list of the "Sexiest video game studs of 2010," at thePhoenix.com/gamestuds10.

SEASON'S BLEEDINGS! It's the most wonderful time of the year . . . if you're a connoisseur of yuletide blood, guts, and killer snowmen, that is. Catch the last day of our gore-soaked holiday video advent calendar DregNog – with special guest host Infinite Santa 8000 – at thePhoenix.com.

THE YEAR IN VIRAL VIDEO! We pick the brain of Videogum's Gabriel Delahaye on such Internet Celebrities as Double Rainbow Guy, Antoine Dodson, Epic Beard Man, and ICP. Fucking memes, how do they work? Delahaye expounds at thePhoenix.com.

PARADISE ROCK CLUB BOSTON

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NIGEL HALL

LED ZEPPELIN 2

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OBERHOFER

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TODD SNIDER
(SOLO ACOUSTIC)

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NATE WILSON GROUP / SUN JONES
ALDOUS COLLINS

LITTLE DRAGON
BILLYGOAT

FITZ AND THE TANTRUMS
JORDAN VALENTINE & THE SUNDAY SAINTS

TED LEO
(SOLO) WITH BILL JANOVITZ, DREW O'DOHERTY

HOT DAY AT THE ZOO
JASON SPOONER TRIO

MISSION HILL

MEAN CREEK
TAXPAYER, GIRLFRIENDS, DIRTY DISHES

BLANK DOGS
THE SOFT MOON

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*STANDARD TEXT MESSAGING RATES APPLY

No, House Speaker Robert DeLeo and Senate President Therese Murray did not invent the Beacon Hill patronage machine (see "What DeLeo and Murray Should Do," editorial, December 3), but they are part of the problem. You wrote that our dope of a governor will be part of the solution.

Interestingly, you never mention the elephant in the room: the corrupt Democratic machine that has a stranglehold on our state. Beacon Hill is a joke, and voters are fed up with the thugs who run this state. But for last-minute efforts by the machine and union thugs, we would have enjoyed some fresh faces on Beacon Hill. Do you support a two-party system or not?

PETER ROBB
HOLLISTON

QUESTIONING PARADOXES

The writer of "Wiki Paradoxes" (see editorial, December 10) lets us know right away how he or she feels about Julian Assange, by calling him "the essence of geek chic." I'm sure the women whom he allegedly raped would disagree with that description. In any case, this idolization of Assange prevents the writer from evaluating the situation objectively. Regardless of how loosely Sweden defines rape compared to other Western countries, Assange's alleged crimes took place within their borders.

The Swedish definition of rape is the only one relevant here — when in another country, one must abide by their rules. The writer points out Assange may have been framed, but that we cannot dismiss the claims of these women out of hand. However, the writer does just that when he or she insinuates that only "left-leaning feminists" believe these women and defend them. I'm pretty sure that more people than just "left-leaning feminists" feel that alleged rapists should be investigated.

KATHERINE DECK
SOMERVILLE

NO REAL COMPROMISE

At the end of your December 10 editorial (see "Obama's Compromise"), you ask, "But how many of these same Democrats were calling for Republicans to compromise during the healthcare debate?"

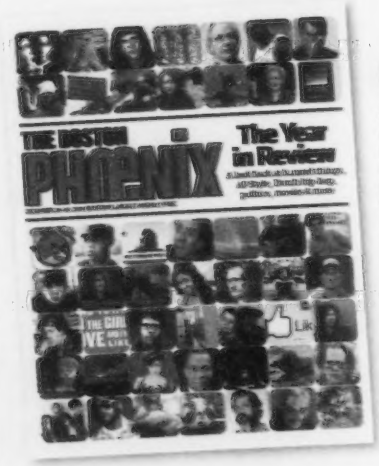
As you may recall, in the end not a single Republican voted in favor of healthcare reform — so I don't get your point. Plus, you fail to mention that this bill will take from Social Security to pay for this so-called compromise and reduce the mortgage exemption. Some compromise — more like giving the Republicans everything they want because they are holding the unemployed hostage *again*.

ROBIN AMOS
SOMERVILLE

CLOSING THE BOOK

Regarding your feature, "Why Bookstores?" (November 26), I used to read *Publishers Weekly* in the early 1990s and at one point considered owning a small independent book store. I find it particularly galling that when Amazon started operations, instead of using their own inventory, they were utilizing a quick-order book system set up by the book distributors Baker & Taylor to supply special orders to independent bookstores. This was touted by the distributors as a means to fight the chains. This system was used by Amazon at its beginning. With outside financing, Amazon was then able to skirt the distributors and set up its own fulfillment warehouses.

RICHARD MARSHALL BOND JR.
ARLINGTON



ON THE COVER

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WINTER 2011

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PEACEFUL DIVORCE RESOLUTIONS

ATTORNEY ANTHONY C. ADAMOPOULOS is a Boston area divorce lawyer, divorce mediator & divorce arbitrator who also practices Collaborative Divorce.

Anthony has more than 25 years of legal experience, and explains that Collaborative Divorce is the shared belief by participants that it is in the best interest of spouses and their families to avoid litigation and arrive at outcomes privately and respectfully. This reduces the negative economic and emotional consequences of adversarial court proceedings for the spouses and their children. In the Collaborative process, spouses, attorneys, financial professionals, and trained facilitators commit to settle each case without judicial intervention; give prompt and thorough disclosure of all relevant information; and engage in face-to-face conferences to resolve all issues. Anthony is quick to point out that if either party chooses to go to court, the settlement team must withdraw and the spouses retain litigation counsel. Litigation is not an option in Collaborative Divorce.

Attorney Anthony C. Adamopoulos — **133 Washington St, 3rd Fl**
(978)744-9591 • www.divorcingoptions.com — **Salem, MA 01970**

PROBLEM SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

NEW ENGLAND FORENSIC ASSOCIATES (NEFA) was founded in 1985 by Carol Ball, PhD and Theoharis Seghorn, PhD. NEFA's mission, from its conception has been to protect the community by offering specialized evaluation and treatment services to patients with problem sexual behaviors. NEFA's services are provided by a staff of licensed clinicians, Social Workers & Psychologists. Such services include psychological and sexual evaluations, treatment planning, risk assessment, dispositional recommendations, expert testimony and civil litigation.

Clinical Director Leo Keating, LICSW, points out NEFA provides treatment for the following problem behaviors: professional sexual misconduct, sexual compulsive behaviors (such as exhibitionism and voyeurism), sexual addiction and specialize in treatment for individuals experiencing problematic sexual behaviours related to Internet use. Special treatment services are available for perpetrators of sexual abuse of children. Starting with a comprehensive intake evaluation, each person's treatment is tailored to the individual's needs. Important history is taken and family needs are assessed. NEFA's state-of-the-art assessment procedures can help identify the strength of deviant behavior such as exhibitionism, pedophilia and other paraphilias. These problem behaviors can be brought under good control with focused treatment such as behavior therapy, group therapy and medications. All consultations and treatments are confidential.

New England Forensic Associates — **22 Mill St, Ste 306**
(781)643-0610 • www.nefacorp.com — **Arlington, MA 02174**

FINDING PEACE IN THE NEW YEAR

ATTORNEY NORA DANIELS utilizes a comprehensive approach to family law matters and believes that most issues can and should be resolved in an atmosphere of dignity & respect through the use of mediation or collaborative law.

When family or divorce disputes arise and the parties truly want 1) **P**ersonalized solutions that advocate their interests & the best interests of children, 2) **E**qual access to information & equal determination in outcome, 3) to **A**void adversarial positions & collateral damage, in order to reach a **C**ost effective constructive agreement, and 4) **E**ngender positive communication & bring about effective settlements — then parties should contact an attorney trained in Collaborative Law or an experienced mediator to settle their dispute. Nora Daniels offers these options to her clients and is proud to say she is member of the MA Collaborative Law Council & the MA Council on Family Mediation, where professionals seek to assist their clients find PEACE and avoid the collateral damage of litigation.

Attorney Nora Daniels — **45 Cherry Pl**
(781)444-8888 • www.noradaniels.com • www.mediationbychoice.com — **Newton, MA 02465**

TRAVEL HEALTH ADVICE

Offering travel advice, immunizations, and post-travel evaluations, the **TRAVELER'S HEALTH SERVICE** at Tufts Medical Center is operated by staff members of the Division of Geographic Medicine and Infectious Diseases. The Division has a long-standing interest in the fields of diarrheal diseases, malaria, other parasitic infections & travel medicine. All physicians are Board Certified in Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases.

The Traveler's Health Service offers comprehensive, itinerary-specific, pre-travel medical advice and immunizations for individuals & corporate employees. Vaccines are available for yellow fever, hepatitis A, typhoid fever, hepatitis B, rabies, Japanese encephalitis & meningococcal vaccines. International travelers receive detailed information on how to prevent malaria & other diseases transmitted by mosquitoes, traveler's diarrhea, and special issues such as medical care abroad, altitude sickness, traveling with children or during pregnancy & education on ways to avoid rare tropical diseases. Full pre-travel medical evaluations are also available for individuals or corporate employees, including complete history & physicals, blood testing & TB tests. Other tests are performed as needed for risk reduction. **Visit: www.tuftsmedicalcenter.org/OurServices/SpecialServicesandCenters/TravelersHealthService**

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DIAGNOSTIC ULTRASOUND

Board Certified Radiologist Dr. Beryl R. Benacerraf & Maternal-Fetal Medicine Specialists Drs. Thomas D. Shipp & Bryann S. Bromley and Yvette Groszmann (Board Certified in OBGYN) at **DIAGNOSTIC ULTRASOUND ASSOCIATES** aim to provide experienced & state-of-the-art ultrasound diagnosis of fetal, maternal & gynecological conditions in a caring & supportive environment. By physician referral only, ultrasound is useful for the general health care of women and is especially valuable during pregnancy. Practice specialties include gynecological/pelvic ultrasound including sonohysterography, and all obstetrical ultrasound including high-risk fetal imaging, 3D, doppler, fetal echocardiography, nuchal translucency (measurement for 1st trimester risk assessment), amniocentesis & biophysical profile. They also perform fetal nasal bone evaluations at 11-14 weeks.

On the cutting edge of medicine, the doctors use the genetic sonogram to assess a patient's specific risk for carrying a fetus with Down Syndrome. They are also experienced in the detection of pelvic malignancy, especially ovarian cancer. Onsite sonohysterography is a procedure they use to evaluate the lining of the uterus. It aids in detecting polyps & fibroids in patients with abnormal bleeding or infertility. Combined with other tests and exams, ultrasound can help your doctor make an accurate diagnosis.

Diagnostic Ultrasound Associates — **333 Longwood Ave**
(617)739-0245 • www.diagnosticultrasoundassociates.com — **Boston, MA 02115**

ALTERNATIVE ORTHODONTICS

Early interceptive orthodontic treatment can lessen the severity of an orthodontic problem, reduce time in full braces and allow for finishing orthodontics at a younger age. There are alternative methods of treatment for children. Untreated malocclusions (bad bites) can contribute to conditions that lead to esthetic, functional or decay breakdown. There are also many choices for treating adults. **DR. MARCEL KORN** will advise you on how best to manage your orthodontic problem.

At your initial visit, he will present you with traditional & alternative methods of treatment. He states that orthodontics is his hobby & his work and he is heavily involved in research at Tufts & throughout the world. The two areas that he is renowned for and has a major interest in are early treatment for children and treatment of postural problems in adults. The latter namely consists of "TMD" problems and protrusions & retrusions of the jaws. It is referred to as postural orthodontics, or alternative orthodontics. He lectures & teaches all over the world on Alternative Orthodontics for children & adults.

Marcel Korn, DMD — **328 Newbury St**
(617)536-0365 — **Boston, MA 02115**

COUPLES & FAMILY THERAPY

JUDITH GRUNEBAUM, LICSW, offers psychotherapy for individuals, couples & families based on more than 35 years of experience in mental health counseling. Her services are available for couples & families seeking to heal conflicted or injured relationships, learn new problem solving skills, building on strengths & resources already present. 10 years ago, Judy, her husband Dr. Henry Grunebaum & other colleagues, started the Couples & Family Clinic & Training Program at the Cambridge Health Alliance. This clinic helps family members to live better with major mental illness, health problems, children experiencing trauma & loss, and recent immigrants & families coping with dislocation.

Judy emphasizes that her clinical approach considers the fabric of relationships created by the interweaving of needs, feelings, loyalties, beliefs & interactions shared between people. Judy helps people with depression, anxiety, economic stress, domestic & workplace abuse. These problems & symptoms often occur within the context of relationships such as, grief & loss, divorce & re-marriage, health problems, sexual orientation, caring for aging or disabled parents, intergenerational communication & many spiritual concerns. She has co-led state mandated supportive educational groups for divorcing parents and worked with college & graduate students at Boston University for 25 years. Sliding fee scale & some insurance plans are accepted.

Judith Grunebaum, LICSW — **37 Gray Gardens E & 1105 Massachusetts Ave, Ste 3F**
(617)876-8277 — **Cambridge, MA 02138**

DIVORCE . . . MOVING FORWARD

Attorneys Lisa M. Wilson & Lisa J. Marino at **WILSON, MARINO & BONNEVIE, PC** are dedicated to restoring sanity to the divorce process through mediation & the collaborative divorce process. Court battles can be emotionally & financially devastating, as they know from their experience as divorce litigators. They also know there are effective alternatives that allow for healthier transitions for the separating couple and their children, while providing the couple with more control over the outcome.

Lisa & Lisa are quick to point out that mediation & the collaborative divorce process focus on solutions rather than problems and are based on a shared commitment to minimize emotional & financial damage, respect the needs of each individual, and create a foundation for effective co-parenting. The collaborative divorce process offers a dual benefit: each attorney provides independent counsel to their client and also participates as an advocate & team member throughout the divorce process. Lisa Wilson is on the Family Law Steering Committee of the BBA, and together with Lisa Marino, they will litigate on their client's behalf when necessary.

Wilson, Marino & Bonnevie, PC — **288 Walnut St, Ste 5**
(617)964-8090 • www.wmblawfirm.com — **Newtonville, MA 02460**

LIFTING UP LIVES

It's all about community. **ACTION FOR BOSTON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, INC (ABCD)** is Boston's antipoverty agency, serving more than 80,000 low-income Greater Boston residents through its city-wide network of neighborhood-based organizations. ABCD provides innovative, timely programs that promote upward mobility and a higher quality of life for people and communities. It empowers disadvantaged people by providing them with the tools to overcome poverty, live with dignity & achieve their full potential.

ABCD has developed a broad spectrum of programs to serve individuals & families at every stage of their lives. New programs are constantly developed to meet emerging needs & utilize available resources. The goal of all programs is to meet needs, empower individuals & families, and strengthen communities. Programs include fuel & energy assistance & conservation, career development/skills training, early education & care, elder services, food pantries, health services, youth development including two high schools for at-risk youth and housing & homelessness prevention. ABCD's Toy Drive & Holiday Help Fund are in full swing with 10,000 requests from families who desperately need assistance. Call the Toy Drive Hot Line at 617-348-6559 to help out!

ABCD, Inc. — **178 Tremont St**
(617)357-6000 • www.bostonabcd.org — **Boston, MA 02111**

PROTECTING YOUR FAMILY

ATTORNEY JOYCE KAUFFMAN is an experienced lawyer and mediator who combines the right temperament, maturity & sensitivity with a unique background in psychotherapy & law. She is committed to helping couples resolve disputes through divorce mediation, collaborative divorce or, if necessary, litigation. Avoiding lengthy legal battles & the imposition of court-ordered decisions can help to reduce legal fees, eliminate lengthy and contentious custody battles, reduce emotional stress, develop communication skills, cope with hurt & angry feelings, and increase the possibility of healthy outcomes for children. With her mental health background, Joyce strives to create & maintain an atmosphere of cooperation & responsibility, helping individuals to deal with the emotional issues that can get in the way of constructive decision-making.

As a proficient attorney, Joyce will also aggressively pursue your important domestic relations dispute in all family matters, including divorce, child custody and support, contempt and modification complaints, and domestic violence; she also handles adoption, guardianship and assisted reproductive technology matters. Joyce provides legal services to traditional & non-traditional families.

Law Office of Joyce Kauffman — **231 Third St**
(617)577-1505 • www.kauffmanlaw.net — **Cambridge, MA 02142**

PEOPLE ARE GREATER THAN THEIR DISABILITIES

VICTORY HUMAN SERVICES (VHS) is a private, non-profit agency servicing the Greater Boston area. Their goal is to empower people to make choices that enrich their lives by providing services that equip individuals & their families to overcome the challenges of developmental disabilities & mental illness. VHS's services are designed to foster community integration, program participation and promote independence in a peer support environment. Their residential services range from in-home visits to 24-hour staffing at group residences.

Individuals living in VHS's group homes build meaningful relationships with peers & support staff. These relationships are instrumental in strengthening interpersonal skill development and fostering an environment of shared values in the recovery process. Each group home is staffed 24-hours daily and may offer wheelchair accessible housing on demand within a reasonable time frame. Each resident has a private, personalized bedroom. VHS employees provide advocacy, case management, outreach, recreation/social activities & trainings. They offer multiple individualized services options that include, Specialized Home Care, an Individual Support Program and the Family Partnership Program. VHS provides effective and respectful clinical care to individuals from particular ethnic or racial groups. Their bi-lingual staff includes Haitian Creole, Spanish, & French.

Victory Human Services — **461 Washington St (Dorchester Ctr)**
(617)474-9699 • www.victoryhs.com — **Dorchester, MA 02124**

WORKING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

COMMUNITY WORKS is a portfolio of 32 local social justice organizations providing Massachusetts residents a unique opportunity to invest in long-term systemic change. Community Works members have joined forces to work for affordable housing, quality health care, environmental justice, civil rights, safe neighborhoods, economic equity & youth leadership. Their members involve local people in making the changes that will build robust communities.

Imagine a society where everyone is included in the equitable sharing of resources. At Community Works, they turn this vision into reality. Their membership represents a portfolio of community-based social justice organizations working to build the human capacity that is vital to address the challenges facing our neighborhoods, our communities & our planet. Contributions to CW strengthen not just one organization, but an entire community of organizations working for social justice. CW supports its members through networking, training, technical assistance & pooled resources.

Community Works — **25 West St, 5th Fl**
(617)423-9555 • www.communityworks.com — **Boston, MA 02111**

This Just In

REALITY CHECK

_BY DAVID SIPRESS

It may be unhealthy, but it's quintessentially American.

You Can Look It Up

2010, AP Style

As any grizzled newspaper copy editor will tell you, shit ain't real until the AP Stylebook says so. Taken as a whole, a year's worth of Stylebook updates is a kind of warped mirror to world events; you can tell which stories took up the most ink and/or pixels by taking a look at what the Stylebook committee felt the need to clarify. And all these updates *are* made by committee — so you can imagine the hand-wringing that went into clarifying the proper usage of "unfriend."

JANUARY The year started in catastrophe, and in the midst of staggering human tragedy the Stylebook made sure we were fully informed: **PORT-AU-PRINCE**, it instructed us, is pronounced "port-oh-PRIHNS."

FEBRUARY Stylebook beat the midwinter blues with classy binge-eating, updating us on **ARTISANAL** ("refers to foods and drinks produced in small batches") and **ORGANIC** ("a federally regulated food labeling item . . . produced without using most conventional pesticides"). Whatever — it's all going the same place, foodie.

MARCH The **IPAD**, we learned, is "much like an iPod but is larger." Despite Steve Jobs's love for interCapping, the Stylebook noted, it is okay to make the "i" uppercase when the word starts a sentence or headline. As in: "IPads are just like big iPods."

APRIL At least 15 years after the rise of Geocities, the Stylebook finally conceded that **WEBSITE** is a compound word, like "rainbow," or "newspaper," rather than the stodgier, curmudgeon-preferred "Web site." The 'Book noted: "Also, **WEBCAM**, **WEBCAST**, and **WEBMASTER**." Nonetheless, the *Phoenix* news section continues to use " Web site." Because we're curmudgeons.

MAY **FAISAL SHAHZAD**'s name, the 'Book informed, is pronounced "FY'-sul shah-ZAHD," not "that fuckup who can't even wire a bomb properly."

JUNE Summer brought us entries for **VUVUZELA** ("Plastic horns used by fans at World Cup games in South Africa"), as well as a slew of social-media terms: **AVATAR**, **CLICK-THROUGH**, **HASHTAG**, **LIVEBLOG**, **UNFRIEND**, **WIKI**, and many more. Clearly the Stylebook staff spent most of its summer indoors. The Stylebook also added an entire section on the journalistic use of social-networking sites, explaining "how to verify sources found through social media." What, are you saying we can't source facts to "anonymous" on 4chan anymore?

JULY Nothing for July. Apparently the Stylebook staff were all off at the journalism beach . . .

AUGUST . . . But they made up for it in August, a month in which the Stylebook noted that **FOODBORNE** is an adjective — possibly the result of a beach luau gone awry? — and also added an entry for **WYCLEF JEAN**: "Hip-hop artist launching a bid for the presidency of Haiti." We wonder how long that definition will linger.

SEPTEMBER This month, the Stylebook clarified the usage of **PORTZEBIE**, **FURSHLUGGINER**, and **FWADDAPP!** — oh, wait, that was the *Fake* AP Stylebook. We assume **JILZOST** is still okay.

OCTOBER A momentous month! If the Stylebook hadn't updated its entry on the current **GREAT RECESSION** "to include a reference to its end in June 2009," how would we have known it was over?

NOVEMBER In a long-overdue update, the Stylebook noted the difference between **MIDGET** and **DWARF**. Takeaway: don't call a dwarf a midget. And the plural is "dwarfs," not "dwarves," for you Tolkien-reading, D&D-newsletter-editing nerds.

DECEMBER The year ends with two depressing updates: the preferred usage of both **CYBERBULLYING** and **TEA PARTY**. Clearly, Stylebook is trying to tell us that this year, the country has become overrun with assholes.

_*Phoenix* Staff

FAILURE _BY KARL STEVENS KARLSTEVENSART@GMAIL.COM

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Shameless Self-Promotion

THE YEAR IN US

If ever there was an indulgent time of year, late December would be it — and not just in the washing-down-fistfuls-of-sugar-cookies-with-flagons-of-eggnog sense, either. This is a time for nostalgia gluttony and navel gazing. In that spirit, we offer up to you our list of most-read news stories of 2010.

1_ "THE DEVIL BEHIND *THE DEVIL IN MISS JONES*" | AUGUST 26 | During the dog days of summer, we unearthed a terrifying revelation: back in the '70s, Fox News blowhard Bill O'Reilly graced this humble rag with a profile of *Deep Throat* director Gerard Damiano.

DANNY HELLMAN

2_ "NEW AND IMPROVED ROMNEY" | FEBRUARY 12 | David S. Bernstein's profile of our ex-gov dropped two weeks before Romney's new book hit shelves, and dissected Slick Mitt's methodical efforts to rebrand himself for a 2012 presidential run.

3_ "DEMOCRATS AGAINST OBAMA" | NOVEMBER 3 | Unapologetic bomb-thrower Steven Stark gazed into his speculative crystal ball, and prognosticated that Barack Obama's greatest threat to re-election might not be from across the aisle after all.

4_ "IS GENIUS IMMORTAL?" | MAY 3 | Staff writer Chris Faraone emerged from the lair of futurist and "modern-day Edison" Ray Kurzweil with an arsenal of info on immortal life, the universe, and everything singularity-related.

5_ "THE QUEST FOR THE ULTIMATE FEMALE ORGASM" | MARCH 22 | Yes, we know — you're shocked, *shocked*, that this was one of our most-read stories this year. Staff writer Deirdre Fulton probed modern science's quest to ~~find the clitoris~~ build a better female orgasm.

6_ "GAY TEA PARTY WITCH SEX: THREE TALES OF EROTIC POLITICAL FICTION" | OCTOBER 29 | For our Halloween/election-issue spectacular, we gave you a few toe-curling yarns starring our favorite pols and pundits. And you totally clicked on it.

7_ "PARAPHERNALIA PARANOIA: ALLSTON HEAD SHOPS SHUT DOWN" | JULY 2 | Score another one for The Man. Valerie Vande Panne reported on police raids on Wildside Gallery, the Joint, and Green Side Up Gallery.

8_ "KEN MILLER JUST CAN'T WIN" | MARCH 3 | David Scharfenberg examined the kerfuffle stirred up by Brown University biology professor Kenneth R. Miller, "the nation's most important Darwinist."

MARBUCCI SALMON

9_ "TROUBLED OVER BRIDGEWATER" | SEPTEMBER 13 | What lies behind the razor wire at the Old Colony Correctional Center? Suicide, overcrowding, and brutality — and that's just the tip of the iceberg. Chris Faraone brought us this chilling investigative piece on the Bridgewater prison.

10_ "RAPPER SAM ADAMS NOW ON TAP" | MARCH 12 | Many Boston acts got big this year (see page 30), but perhaps none blew up more virally than Cambridge rapper Sam Adams. (And the same goes for our dispatches on his meteoric rise to fame.)

_*Phoenix* Staff

THE YEAR IN NIC CAGE

365 DAYS OF PURE TRUMPET-SHARING, FISHSEKS-PONDERING, VELVET-CEILINGED MADNESS

_BY EUGENIA WILLIAMSON

Around two minutes into Carter Burwell's arrangement of the banjo standard "Way Out There" (known to most of us as the theme from *Raising Arizona*), the melody, heretofore whistled and yodeled over wild and rambling little arpeggios, gives way to some familiar chords. Then, all of a sudden, someone's humming "Ode to Joy" — and your jaw drops, your chin scraping your sternum. The transition is seamless; the chords are the same. The first time I listened to this song the whole way though on good headphones, the humming made me float with insensible joy, but also with the same panic I felt when I first stared up at the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. It was a perfect, perfect moment.

These days, the same joy swells within me when I think about the star of *Raising Arizona*, Nic Cage. This should not be mistaken for schadenfreude, or the ironic happiness induced by thinking about Juggalos. This is Beethoven-caliber joy.

There are those who wish they were born in a different time. I spent my adolescence cursing the fact that I wasn't alive when Iggy smeared himself in peanut butter and rolled around on broken glass, or when Zelda jumped into a fountain with her flapper dress still on. How can anything come close to the Algonquin Round Table, to James Brown with Bootsy Collins, to Mark Twain on the Mississippi? Why bother trying?

Nic Cage does. He tries, and then he wins. His dogged pursuit of the sublime serves as inspiration to the rest of us whores. He proves definitively that it's great to be alive in 2010, transcending even the advantages of the Hollywood dynasty into which he was born. I refer you to Gwyneth Paltrow. Did she outbid Leonardo DiCaprio for a dinosaur skull? Does she own two islands? Two castles? Two albino cobras? An octopus? Does she even have one Lamborghini? No, no, no, no, no. And no.

Of course, it's not just about what Nic Cage owns; it's about what he does. Known for oscillating between great performances in small, good films and outlandishly sublime performances in big, bad films, Cage wins at acting. He also wins at YouTube: the montage of the greatest moments in the remake of *The Wicker Man* remains the best imaginable use of that medium ever.

He also wins at 2010.

So, without further ado, I offer you the Year in Cage.

NIC CAGE AS EVERYONE
niccageaseveryone.blogspot.com

Nic Cage As Everyone is a Tumblr in which people are encouraged to photoshop Nic Cage's face over the faces of others. It's scary how well it works.

JANUARY Nic Cage excites LARPers the world over when the trailer is released for *Season of the Witch*. In it, he plays a crusader who must transport a witch accused of causing the Black Plague to a monastery. Is she really a witch? Will she and Cage's crusader do it in spite of the fact that his wig looks like it's made of asbestos fibers? Only time will tell.

FEBRUARY LARPers everywhere gnash their teeth and rend their chainmail when Lionsgate postpones the release of *Season of the Witch* indefinitely. Cage announces he will star opposite Ryan Reynolds (a/k/a, the Lamppost Soon To Be Divorced from Scar-Jo) in CGI caveman flick *The Croods*. Cage takes his toddler, Kal-El, to Disneyland.

MARCH Back in 2007, Cage leased two Rolls-Royces within a four-month period. He returned them to the dealer when he could no longer afford to make payments, but did not escape a lawsuit. This month, Cage settles out of court, because that is just how he Rolls.

APRIL Cage delivers a perfect performance in *Kick-Ass* as Big Daddy. In a press conference that same month, he recounts a pivotal moment in his career — an encounter with Miles Davis on *The Dick Cavett Show* that inspired him to "approach acting as jazz": "I was talking about things like art synthesis and Picasso and you can do with acting what he did, or with music, and [Davis] . . . nodded and he winked at me. Miles Davis, you know. And we were sharing the trumpet." Less than two weeks later, TMZ reports that Cage has erected "a nine-foot tall pyramid-shaped super-tomb" — strikingly similar to the Eye of Providence from *National Treasure* — in a New Orleans cemetery.

MAY At the British opening of *Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans*, Cage rants about his dietary habits to a tabloid reporter from the *Sun*. "I have a fascination with fish, birds, whales — sentient life — insects, reptiles," he says. "I actually choose the way I eat according to the way animals have sex. I think fish are very dignified with sex. So are birds. . . . But pigs, not so much. So I don't eat pig meat or things like that. I eat fish and fowl."

JUNE On June 16, Cage confirms that he'll reprise the role of motorcycle daredevil Johnny Blaze in the sequel to *Ghost Rider*. The following day, *Variety* announces Cage will star opposite Nicole Kidman in the scintillating marital thriller *Trespass*. An animator named Harry Partridge creates a short, nightmarish music-video riff on a scene from Cage's star turn in *The Family Man*. "Nicolas Cage Wants Cake" inspires legions of imitators.

JULY After a series of setbacks, including a production accident in which a stunt Ferrari drove into the window of a Times Square Sbarro, *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* opens to dismal box-office returns and worse reviews. Cage swears to forego dark movies so as not to upset Kal-El, denies rumors of a bar fight, and admits to shrooming with his cat.

AUGUST Cage bows out of *Trespass*, then rejoins the cast days later. Soon after, he tells a reporter about throwing up on his senior prom date.

SEPTEMBER If 2010 seemed eventful, consider 2009: the banks foreclosed on several of Cage's 20 residences; the IRS placed a lien on his assets because of $6.3 million in unpaid taxes; a jealous public scorned his affinity for shrunken heads and venomous snakes; and Cage filed a lawsuit against former business manager Samuel Levin, whom Cage blamed for his financial downward spiral. One year later, Cage and Levin settle out of court.

OCTOBER LARPers sigh ambivalently when they discover *Season of the Witch* will premiere the first week in January, when studios send their stinkers out to die. A new trailer for *Drive Angry 3D* premieres, thrilling fans of grindhouse, muscle cars, and those who want to see Cage play a deceased criminal who escapes hell to wreak havoc on a death cult. In Vienna, Cage speaks out against organized crime.

NOVEMBER One of Cage's foreclosed estates sells for $10.5 million, and the star must bid a final adieu to décor that includes purple velvet couches, blood-red velvet ceilings with exposed beams, and lime-green accent lamps. *Ghost Rider 2: Spirit of Vengeance* begins filming in Bucharest.

DECEMBER Cage freaks out in the parking lot of a nightclub in Bucharest. An enterprising clubgoer films the incident, which is then broadcast around the world. Millions watch a drunk Cage yelling incoherently at a parking attendant; one of the few discernable words is "die." Days later, Cage announces he will star in *Medallion*, a film about a reformed thief who must rescue his daughter after she's kidnapped and locked in a taxi.

Eugenia Williamson can be reached at ewilliamson@phx.com.

Talking Politics

DOUBLE-SECRET PROBATION

AS THE PREVIOUS BEACON HILL SCANDALS WIND DOWN, ANOTHER – A POTENTIALLY BIGGER ONE – EMERGED THIS YEAR: POLITICAL PATRONAGE

_BY DAVID S. BERNSTEIN

In a year that started with a former House Speaker under indictment, an open US Senate seat, and a governor seemingly headed to electoral defeat, the biggest political story of 2010 turned out to be the Beacon Hill probation patronage scandal. And, if past is prologue, that ongoing saga promises to continue in 2011.

Massachusetts lawmakers would like to breathe easier, now that Bay State voters have chosen not to expel them *en masse*. The major ethics headaches of the past three years are approaching their denouement in federal court, with former state senator Dianne Wilkerson soon to be sentenced, and ex-Speaker Sal DiMasi awaiting his trial.

But the probation scandal may yet prove to be more far-reaching — and just might trigger fundamental change on Beacon Hill.

If so, the pivot point can be dated precisely, to May 23, when the *Boston Globe* published the first installment of a Spotlight Team report on patronage in the state's probation department. That triggered investigations, including a federal probe that has reportedly begun issuing subpoenas for documents; most observers expect legislators and staff to eventually be deposed.

All this revealed an agency that for a decade subverted any notion of fair process in hiring and promoting employees, and instead rewarded those with recommendations from legislators — particularly lawmakers with control and influence over the probation department and its budget.

Top elected officials are trying to draw a firm circle around the probation department itself, hoping to quarantine the damage, and prevent it from tarnishing anyone else. They are emphasizing the alleged egregious wrongdoing of the commissioner, John O'Brien, who faces a disciplinary hearing next month. In addition, Speaker Robert DeLeo has proposed placing probation employees under civil-service protection, and Governor Deval Patrick has formed a probation-reform working group, in cooperation with DeLeo and Senate President Therese Murray.

Meanwhile, lawmakers insist that nobody in the legislature knew of the problem, and that they are unaware of any similar corruptions in other agencies.

The systemic fraud at probation, if true, is extraordinary and unlikely to be equaled elsewhere in state government. And previous scandals, including those involving Wilkerson and DiMasi, ultimately failed to take down other state lawmakers or significantly change the overriding culture.

Conversations with legislators, staff, and those who work closely with them suggest a sense that this, too, will blow over.

That may not be realistic. Paul Ware, the attorney whose investigation for the Supreme Judicial Court resulted in a scathing, detailed report, has made clear that he was strictly precluded from pursuing the case further into the legislative side — but that he believes there is enough smoke to suspect a fire.

The US Attorney's office, Attorney General's office, and the local media are actively on that trail. DeLeo and Murray are in significant potential legal peril, as are other top current and former lawmakers. Others may find their hopes of political advancement tarnished. (For example, some say Boston senator Jack Hart, much rumored for the open Ways and Means chairmanship, may now be a politically untenable choice due to his prominent position in Ware's report.) Lawmakers could find themselves distracted, if not overwhelmed, by the criminal investigations and continuing revelations in the press — and becoming isolated and impotent in a climate of distrust and paranoia.

The scandal may be much worse than they seem to think — because they don't seem to understand what they've done wrong.

INHERENTLY COERCIVE

There is an episode of *The Sopranos* in which Carmela petitions her neighbor's sister to write a college recommendation letter for her daughter. Although she initially declines, the woman eventually submits to the entreaties. At no time does either state the obvious: Carmela's husband is a mob boss, and you don't want to cross a mob boss.

In ethics jargon, this would be known as an "inherently coercive situation," and in politics, it happens all the time — officeholders suggest that staffers might consider spending their free time volunteering for an ally's campaign, for example.

Plenty of veteran political insiders defend the practice of rank-and-file lawmakers reccomending job candidates to other departments. But even many of them concede that it seems inappropriate for top legislative leaders — particularly those with influence on the state budget — to do so. Of course, those are exactly the people who most frequently recommended candidates to probation, and whose candidates were most likely to get those jobs or promotions.

Yet DeLeo and House Ways and Means Chair Charles Murphy have publicly defended the practice — and nobody else working under the dome has spoken up in disagreement.

Their coercive power is enhanced by the fact that those same leaders hold exactly the same budgetary control over the offices who would investigate abuses. (This broader issue was detailed by the *Phoenix* four years ago, in an investigative report about then-Senate Ways and Means Chair Therese Murray; see "She who controls the purse," February 9, 2007.)

The one major independent exception, of course, is the US Attorney's office — which, not coincidentally, has typically been the one to actually pursue and seek punishment for Beacon Hill abuses.

INTO THE CLINK?

It is widely conjectured that the US Attorney's office will end up prosecuting O'Brien, and Speaker Pro Tempore Thomas Petrolati, who is described in reports and by insiders as the king of probation patronage. But several close observers, not wanting to be named, posit that the fates of a slew of bold-name lawmakers now lie in the hands of Carmen Ortiz, who became Boston's US attorney a year ago.

Those potential targets include DeLeo and Murray, as well as former Speaker Thomas Finneran and former Senate President Robert Travaglini.

Given the power of federal subpoena, and the range of public corruption law, these observers say it might not be difficult for Ortiz to connect patronage and appropriations in a way that convinces a grand jury to indict those leaders and others.

The key — and the difference between a legal and a public-image scandal — may lie in the interpretation of "value." Prosecutors have been far more eager to go after pols like DiMasi, Wilkerson, and Boston City Councilor Chuck Turner, who were alleged to have taken actual cash.

But cash is not the primary currency on Beacon Hill, where people trade in power and influence.

CHANGE COMING?

Already, many are saying that the practice of job recommendations will dramatically scale back, not because the elected officials think it is wrong, but because they no longer know where the public — or the courts — now draw that line.

Voluntary measures might not be enough. If the heat intensifies, we may see real pressure on the legislature to finally make itself subject to open-records law. (Courts, including probation, are also exempt.) Ditto Auditor-elect Suzanne Bump's proposal to audit the legislature.

Or, perhaps, this too shall pass. And at the close of 2011, we'll still be waiting for the scandal that will finally rattle the culture of Beacon Hill. ⊙

To read the "Talking Politics" blog, go to thePhoenix.com/talkingpolitics. David S. Bernstein can be reached at dbernstein@phx.com.

BANNER YEAR: WHAT WAS OUTLAWED IN 2010

LET'S ALL SHED A TEAR FOR FOUR LOKO, MARLBOROS, K2 – AND FREEDOM

BY CHRIS FARAONE

In early November, Sarah Palin passed out 200 sugar cookies at a school fundraiser in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. This was no bake sale: Palin was sticking it to local school officials, whom she accused of creating a "nanny state run amok" in their alleged "ban [on] sweets, cakes, and cookies." The rancor was palpable, Palin's minions irate and salivating as they chewed sugar-coated outrage in the auditorium aisles. Never mind that no such ban was proposed, and that the state board of education was, quite simply, considering healthy snack options in classrooms.

If Palin wanted to score with voters, she didn't have to invent a fake ban: there were plenty of real ones to get riled up over. This past year alone, the country went on a banning binge, putting the kibosh on everything from trans fats and blunt wraps to Darvocet — so where was Palin when we needed her to keep big government's mitts off our vices? It's too late now, so crack a Four Loko and pour one out for these now-forbidden pleasures.

C. ATTUBIO

GOODBYE MR. BUTTS

Whether you're a born-again libertarian or a moonbat contrarian, it's hard to deny that Massachusetts is America's supreme nanny state. For 22 years in the early 17th century, much to the dismay of the Bill O'Reillys of the day, Puritans even banned Christmas from the Massachusetts Bay Colony on account of how much impious revelry the holiday spurred. More recently, dog racing was banned in 2008, while earlier this year legislators banned talking on phones while driving for people under 18, as well as texting while driving for all drivers (repeat offenders can be fined up to $500 per infringement).

At the municipal level, in late April, Concord Town Meeting members voted to ban the sale of bottled water. The environmental initiative drew ire from conservative gasbags galore — especially after a 10-foot-diameter water pipe burst in Weston, forcing the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority to issue a boil order in 30 communities. That calamity occurred just three days after Concord residents shunned Poland Spring — an irony that was not likely lost on Attorney General Martha Coakley, who struck down the bylaw in July because it could not be enforced.

Not surprisingly, Boston's 2009 ban on tobacco sales at pharmacies (a move that also made blunt wraps verboten) gained momentum outside of city limits this year. Consumers can no longer purchase cancer sticks at CVS stores in Needham, Uxbridge, and Everett, while Reading, Fall River, Taunton, Springfield, Somerville, and Worcester are considering similar measures. The Walpole Board of Health also instituted such a ban, but the decision is being fought by two pols who, one can only imagine, are quite friendly with US Senator Scott Brown. Selectman Cliff Snuffer — yes, the guy who wants to keep tobacco in pharmacies is named Snuffer — called the ban "an infringement on freedom and liberties." His colleague, Mike Berry, added a gratuitous slippery-slope argument: "I worry about the unintended consequences of their actions. What will they move to ban next? Will they move to regulate the use of salt in local restaurants?" Or puppies? Will they ban *puppies*?

This past year alone, the country went on a banning binge, putting the kibosh on everything from trans fats and blunt wraps to Darvocet.

LOKO NO MO'

The Four Loko phenomenon accelerated so quickly that some details got lost along the way. Maybe it's because we were guzzling several cans a day, but, by the time the Food and Drug Administration outlawed crack juice in November, it seems like no one knew exactly who spoiled all the fun. As it turns out, it was attorneys general from more than two dozen states (not including Massachusetts) who first decided that Americans are not responsible enough to drink a potion laced with three times more alcohol than beer, and as much caffeine as a 12-ounce coffee. In 2008, AGs successfully bullied MillerCoors into mellowing its comparable Sparks product, and soon after set their sights on Phusion Projects, the Chicago-based brewers of Four Loko.

In 2010, shit got realer. As powerful prosecutors raised concerns, meatheads and co-eds helped them out by imbibing suicidal quantities of El Loko, causing local authorities to take notice. This past fall, nearly two dozen Ramapo College students in New Jersey were hospitalized with alcohol poisoning after binging on Four Loko; in Washington, state lawmakers voted to ban "blackout in a can" on November 10, less than a month after a similar incident there. The FDA ordered Phusion and other companies to change their formulas a week later, while Massachusetts followed up soon after with its own ban. As for the media — reporters are still punch-drunk over the stuff, and have taken to reporting on the black market that's emerged in the wake of speed-brew prohibition.

Four Loko fans were not the only victims of the Great Bodega Buzz Kill of 2010. Early this year, the US Marine Corps placed an emergency ban on synthetic marijuana, which is popularly marketed under the names Spice and K2. Several states followed suit after an Iowa teen allegedly committed suicide while bugging out on fake weed, and on November 24 the US Drug Enforcement Administration quashed potpourri puffing altogether. There's a chance that the Spice ban could be lifted in 2011, when the current emergency measure expires. But that's unlikely, considering that it's already blackballed in a dozen other industrialized nations.

For people who smoke *real* weed, 2010 was bittersweet as an old bong packed with Blueberry Haze. This year, New Jersey, Arizona, and the District of Columbia legalized medical marijuana. But in Illinois, legislators followed Boston's lead to ban blunt wraps. Meanwhile, in already-loose California, voters rejected a ballot proposition that would have made it the first state to legalize and tax the crop. It was awful news for most West Coast stoners, but a small relief for some who claim that the munchies are a lot less fun since last January, when Cali became the first state to ban trans fats in all restaurants.

NOT BANNED YET

Even with acts of state tyranny like the Four Loko ban compromising constitutional freedoms, right-wing blowhards have plenty to be thankful for this year. True, this past weekend, wacko liberal lawmakers finally strong-armed the Senate into repealing Don't Ask Don't Tell — but for anyone whose heart isn't warmed by this attack on the military's cherished tradition of institutional homophobia, perhaps there's good news in the gun leniency that was enacted during President Obama's second year in office.

In February, the federal government lifted a long-standing concealed-weapon ban in national parks. Proposed by former president George W. Bush, ignored by Obama, and pushed through Congress attached to a credit-card-reform package, the repeal allows campers to enjoy nature how God intended it to be enjoyed: with firearms. Equally glorious was another measure backed by the Steven Seagal Movie Villain Lobby: as of last week, travelers are now permitted to bring guns onto Amtrak trains. Congress made that decision at the urging of the NRA and Mississippi senator Roger Wicker, who noted: "While airlines offer an option to transport a properly stored gun, rail passengers [did not have] the same opportunity."

On that note, have a healthy holiday season, and please be sure to travel safely. And most of all, enjoy Christmas, because it's only a matter of time until that shit gets banned, too.

Chris Faraone can be reached at cfaraone@phx.com.

JOCK STRAPPED

THE YEAR IN BOSTON SPORTS

_BY MICHAEL C. WALSH

BELICHICK and the Patriots won the AFC East but got knocked out of the playoffs in the first round.

AP/WIDE WORLD

The Patriots are 12-2, the Red Sox won Hot Stove season, the Bruins are skating off skeins of wins thanks in part to the pickup of an 18-year-old Wunderkind who may be the second coming of Jesus on ice skates, and the Celtics have twice dunked the Heat, with help from Shaquille O'Neal, their biggest addition in both contribution and stature. In short, sports life in New England feels amazing right now. But because this isn't the "What Have You Done for Me Lately?" December 2010 wrap-up, and because I'm a negative prick, let me remind this year hasn't been all smiles and Justin Bieber jokes. In fact, it's been pretty fucking terrible for the most part. So without further ado, the trials and tribulations of Boston sports in 2010, laid out in a depressingly condensed list of low points:

LET'S GO EAT A GODDAMN SNACK

The origin of the seismic string of failures can be traced back to a blustery Sunday afternoon in Foxborough, some 11 months ago. The opening play of the AFC Wild Card matchup against the Ravens saw Ray Rice blow through our defense, untouched, en route to a 83-yard touchdown, opening the floodgates for an eventual 33-14 beatdown. Hindsight allegations singling out a locker-room divide between players that bought into the Bill Belichick meta-coaching approach and those that called BS revealed that the team was probably doomed long before Ray Lewis and company decided to snatch their lunch money and leave them with their pants around their ankles. Somewhere, Rex Ryan cackled over an industrial-size bag of pork rinds.

BROAD STREET BEATING

Fast-forward four months, and the boys in black and gold were up three games to zilch on the Philadelphia Flyers, inciting a buzz around hockey that Boston hadn't witnessed since Ray Bourque hoisted the Cup (for Colorado, but still). Then it all collapsed in a sucker punch of events that included the Bruins losing David Krejci, the Flyers regaining Simon Gagne, and the seemingly impenetrable dam that was Tuukka Rask springing a catastrophic leak. Only the third time in NHL history has a team folded in that manner, marking the only scenario where any of us can say we sympathized with the 2004 Yankees.

LA LA LAND

But it's amazing how quickly we were able to shake that hangover, thanks to a Celtics team of card-carrying AARP recipients who whimsically transformed into world-beaters right before our eyes. Kicking down Dwyane Wade, LeBron James, and Dwight Howard in consecutive rounds, they appeared poised to topple Kobe Bryant and the Lakers in what would've amounted to one of the most redeeming title runs in Hub history. Until batshit motherfucker Ron Artest made the most clutch shot in his chemically imbalanced career to hand-deliver that smug prick Phil Jackson his 11th ring, that is. It's the kind of stuff that can drive a grown man to tears.

SO BAD! SO BAD!

On top of all that, the Red Sox had seemingly folded from the gate. A "bridge year" that drove TV ratings to catastrophic lows and had us all questioning our sanity while we washed down our $4 hot dogs with $7 Bud Lights. I hadn't felt that betrayed by the Sox organization since they let Jimmy Fallon shoot that movie inside Fenway Park.

PEDROIA spent as much time on crutches as he did in the field.

AP/WIDE WORLD

We all know the ending of this magical fairytale, where our favorite teams romp all over the other guy's favorite teams, and I just outlined the lurid beginnings, but where's the middle? How did we get here? Just like in any good sports flick, once you hit rock bottom, redemption can only be a brief training montage away . . .

SHAQUITA, SEMIH, AND DELONTE WEST: MILF HUNTER

The Big Shamrock touched down on the parquet floor, bringing not only a more-than-sufficient platoon for an ailing Kendrick Perkins, but also a conductor's baton and an uncanny ability to sit in one place for extended periods of time. Danny Ainge also succeeded in reeling in Delonte West from the edge of insanity and Semih Erden from Uzbekistan, or wherever the hell he's from.

(INSERT FRENZIED JACK EDWARDS-ISM HERE)

Thanks to the general ineptitude of our Toronto brethren, the Bruins ended up with the Maple Leafs' second pick in the June draft. Enter the aforementioned Canadian incarnation of Christ, Tyler Seguin. Though he hasn't exactly walked on water, he has shown signs of superstardom to come. More recently, Tim Thomas has looked like the Tuukka of yesteryear, Marc Savard has been able to shake his dizzy spells, and Blake Wheeler has finally stopped playing like, well, Blake Wheeler.

SOX RULE! YANKEES DROOL!

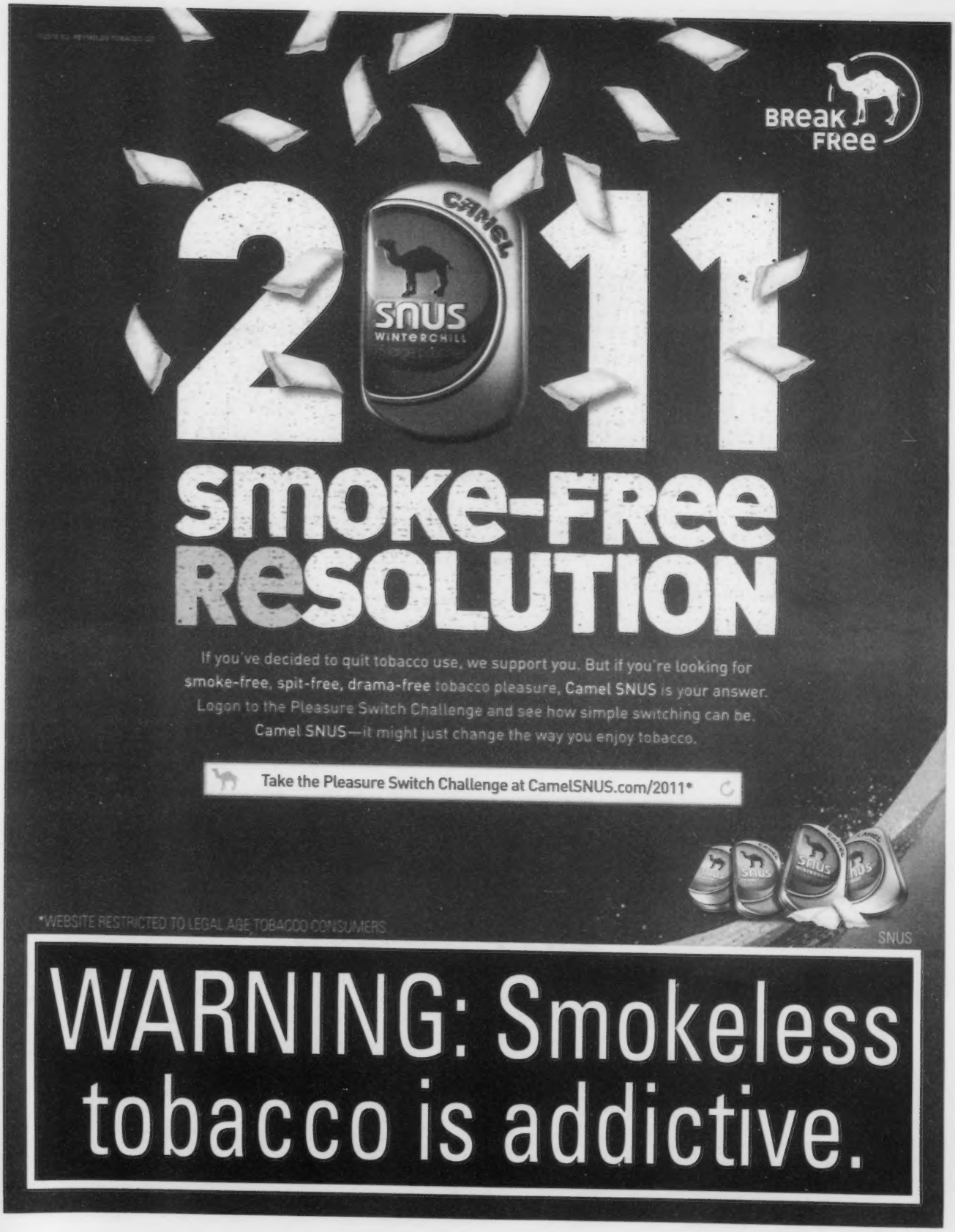
Our baseball team finally remembered how to spend like a team that charges $30 for a bleacher seat should.

BELICHICK'S WAY OR THE HIGHWAY (TO MINNESOTA)

And the Patriots have Wes Welker's cybernetic knee and Tom Brady's cybernetic hair to thank for their recent string of success. They were also able to purge the team of all radical dissenters, including Randy "One Clap" Moss, leaving a team of cold, calculated players to fully buy into Belichick's cold, calculated system. But hey, there's nothing cold, nor calculated, about hoisting the Vince Lombardi Trophy.

Now, if there's one thing that 2010 taught us, it's that beating the piss out of Rex Ryan and the Jets on Monday Night Football does not make champions. So here's to buckling down, and learning from our past indiscretions. Our predictions for 2011? The Patriots upend the defending champion Saints 34-24 in Super Bowl XLV and Shaq announces his candidacy to unseat Scott Brown in the 2012 election. ⊛

Michael C. Walsh can be reached at mwalsh@phx.com.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Average	⊕	$$$$ = $31 and up
Poor	⊖	Based on average entrée price

THE YEAR IN RESTAURANTS

_BY ROBERT NADEAU

MELISSA OUTROW

WELCOME RETURN Anthem is our comeback restaurant of the year, partly on the strength of its fried Twinkie dessert — it's even better than the original.

It's not hard to name the restaurant trend of the year, which is gastro-pubs. Or rather, it is hard to name it, because that is such an unappetizing name for what has been a very revitalizing short-menu format. The only difficulty I have with these places is that many are serious about beer and wine and craft cocktails, forcing a reviewer to try to remember what the food was like after an evening of imbibing. Some of the best skip dessert altogether. Or at least that's what I thought.

The oddest trend of the restaurants I reviewed in 2010 (and your dining-out year could have been altogether different) was that they ran reverse to the economy. The restaurant of the year was among the first reviewed, and as the economic numbers got better, the quality thinned down, although not to the real disasters of some years past. What I thought was the best dessert idea of 2009, a small portion at a small price, reappeared only once in 2010, as "sliver of dark chocolate cake" at Post 390. The ecology movement has made a major contribution to dining culture this year, by suggesting that up-selling bottled water is politically incorrect, and that putting a carafe of tap water or ice water on the table is the locovore thing to do. Given how salty restaurant food is, I'm grateful for the extra water, even if it was piped in from Cleveland.

RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR is Il Casale, which other critics reviewed in 2009. Dante de Magistris saves his wilder ideas for his namesake restaurant in a Cambridge hotel, but his hometown headquarters is solid at every course.

ASIAN RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR Ariana. Afghan food is the farthest west I have reached in this category.

THE RESTAURANTS OF THE MOMENT are the top gastro-pubs: Lord Hobo and American Craft. Both are truly beer gardens of delight, but each has excellent food as well. First one to break down and put in a dessert menu breaks the tie.

THE HOWARD MITCHAM MEMORIAL MEDAL FOR INNOVATION IN SEAFOOD COOKERY (THE MOST SERIOUS AWARD IN THE COLUMN) goes to Keith Pooler of Bergamot for Manila clam ragout, cheffed-up fresh sardines, a remarkable halibut entrée, pan-seared sea scallops in a sauce of green garlic tops, and monkfish medallions worked into a stew with artichoke hearts, bread sauce, and fresh capers.

DINING OUT

THE "IT" RIBBONS It's hard to define what "It" is, but you know it when you walk in: to Al Wadi, where at last Lebanese-American food and culture have arrived; to Foundry on Elm, where the sheer stretch of the space implies vast satisfaction; and to Regal Beagle, which uniquely captures the soul of its neighborhood.

COMEBACK OF THE YEAR Anthem. I don't know why they brought it back, and I don't know why they fixed the original fried Twinkie into a truly excellent dessert, but they did both.

Down to the dish level, the most contested categories were meatballs and tagliatelle. Every menu that ever had meatloaf or a premium burger has gone to the spherical form of chopped meat, and/or the dispersed form over the widest noodles. I like these dishes, too, but by December, I am getting nostalgic for meatloaf and odd burgers.

MEATBALLS OF THE YEAR Duck, in massaman curry, from Patricia Yeo at Ginger Park.

TAGLIATELLE, YOU'RE IT Il Casale.

BISTRO BURGER OF THE YEAR Regal Burger with tempura sweet-potato fries and house-made bread-and-butter pickles, at Regal Beagle.

BEST POUTINES Never had this award before, and may never have it again, but the Gallows pub wins for 2010.

EARNEST WEIRD THING I ORDERED IN 2010 Pig trotter schnitzel at the Citizen Public House and Oyster Bar. Might as well be meatloaf.

MEDIUM WEIRD Tripes à la provençale at Petit Robert Central.

HARDER WEIRD, BUT WORTH IT Beef tendon with spicy wonder sauce at Sichuan Gourmet. It's a crunchy delivery system for hot sauce, but once your order it, you have established cred with one of the most authentic spicy kitchens around.

BEST GRANDMOTHER DISH Silver Pin Noodles at Ginger Park.

FUNNEST BREAD BASKET Basil bread with grassy extra-virgin olive oil at Bistro du Midi.

BEST SOUP The bottom of the black chicken broth at the end of the meal at Hot Pot Buffet.

BEST CLICHÉ SOUP Nine-hour French onion soup at Deuxave.

BEST SALAD Poached pear with mizuna at the Foundry on Elm.

BEST TWIST ON A BEET SALAD Yorkshire puddings in the golden beet salad at South End Buttery.

BEST RE-THUNK CLICHÉ APPETIZER (TIE) Tuna tartare at Noche, the obvious cylinder, topped with pink bluefin burger, but sitting on a brilliant green layer of avocado, cilantro, and citrus; chilled jumbo shrimp at Russell House Tavern, on the same foundation.

BEST VEGAN APPETIZER Gobi Manchurian at Red Lentil.

BEST VEGAN ENTRÉE Grilled tofu steak at American Craft.

BEST ANTI-HEALTH FOOD Crispy chicken-skin club sandwich at American Craft. Who is this chef, Corey French?

BEST CHICKEN ENTRÉE Chicken Pescatore at Galleria 33.

RED MEAT MOMENT Barreh soltani mixed grill with lamb kebab and beef kubideh at Khayyam.

COMFORT-FOOD HOME RUN The RemDawg, at Jerry Remy's Sports Bar, combining a triple-size knockwurst covered with remarkably good chili.

POTATO OF THE YEAR Yukon Gold potato fritters, at East by Northeast — ultimate tater tots with a bit of ginger in them, and a dilled tartar sauce.

BEST CHEAP WINE AND DRAUGHT-BEER LIST Jacky's Table (reviewed as Chez Jacky).

BEST CRAFT COCKTAILS The Citizen Public House and Oyster Bar.

WORST BEVERAGE TREND Charging more than 25 percent of bottle price for a glass of wine. You know who you are.

GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY ALUMNI AWARD FOR THE MOST DEAFENING RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR (TIE) Barlow's and Lord Hobo.

BEST DESSERTS Market by Jean-Georges.

NON-CHOCOLATE DESSERT OF THE YEAR "That Grapefruit Dessert" at Bergamot (we will overlook the white chocolate madeleine).

THE LAST WORD IN VULGARITY Putting a plasma TV on the outside of the restaurant. *Everybody* knows who you are. ⊙

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On the cheap

2010: MY YEAR IN CHEAP EATS

ANOTHER GOOD YEAR ON A TIGHT BUDGET BY MC SLIM JB

The endless recession may be crimping our dining-out habits, but 2010 continued to showcase Boston as a great place for frugal fressers. Some highlights from another year On the Cheap:
BEST GETAWAY TO A FAR-OFF PLACE The traditional coffee ceremony at Lucy's Ethiopian Café near Symphony, whose meticulously hand-made coffee, served with impeccable sociability in the lovely back room, brings a rare taste of the Horn of Africa in the heart of the city.
BEST REMEDY FOR TOO MUCH FRIDAY-NIGHT FUN Weekend soups at Taqueria Jalisco in Eastie, including the gentle, pho-like pozole, fierce and gamy menudo, and beguiling birria, a complex stew of chilies and beef. It's a bargain-priced spa treatment in a bowl.
PROOF THAT RETAIL AND RESTAURANT CAN CO-HABIT The peace is made at Dosa Factory, a solid Indian counter-service place tucked in the back of Shalimar Gourmet Foods in Central Square. Street-food snacks like mirchi pakora (batter-fried hot green peppers) are especially fun and satisfying.
BEST FAMILY-FRIENDLY PLACE (TIE) Restaurante Montecristo and Mi Pueblito, two big, noisy, casual Eastie restaurants blessed with big menus of delicious, hearty, nice-priced Salvadoran/Guatemalan fare.

KELSEY MARIE BELL

NINA MASHINOVA

BEST SHAME-FREE FAST FOOD The quality burgers and dogs at Lee's Place in Newton Centre, which proves that a quick, under-$5 lunch doesn't have to feature megacorporate chain dreck.
EXCELLENCE DESPITE AN IRONIC NAME Harvard Square's Falafel Corner, which does an underwhelming falafel but a gorgeous lamb shwarma: chunks of meat (not a ground-meat loaf) sliced off the vertical rotisserie, crisp at the edges and tender inside – perfect.
MOST POTENT LEFT JAB Luis de Haro's Las Ventas, a gourmet grocer/deli, located to the left of brother Julio's Estragon in the South End, makes bocadillos (sandwiches) from first-rate imported Spanish meats and cheeses. Offerings like the Mallorca – sobrassada (paprika-spiked chorizo pâté), goat cheese, greens, and alioli – are astonishing.
BREAKFAST DISH OF THE YEAR French toast at Dot2Dot Café in Dorchester. The daily brunch at this charming indie features a gorgeously rich, super-eggy version using the chef/owner's great house-made brioche, served with quality bacon and pure maple syrup.
BEST REASON TO KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED It's nearly invisible in the corner of the (boring American) Plaza Deli near Government Center, but Café Latino and its huge, exceptional version of pernil asado – Puerto Rican marinated and roasted pork shoulder – is worth ferreting out.
BEST UPGRADE AT A LOCATION Sichuan Gourmet, serving a fine, ferocious, traditional version of the fieriest of Chinese cuisines, a superior successor to Brookline's venerable but tired Chef Chang's.

Here's wishing you more fine food at popular prices in 2011!

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ED SHARP

Christmas commercialism got you down? Try the mordant absurdity of Tim Burton. *The Nightmare Before Christmas* isn't on the local schedule, but his **EDWARD SCISSORHANDS** (1990) should do nicely, with Johnny Depp in Marilyn Manson regalia and foot-long blades on his digits snipping topiary and hairdos and endearing himself to the hearts of an uptight community and a young Winona Ryder. It screens at the Brattle Theatre, 40 Brattle St, Cambridge | 617.876.6837 | December 25 @ 9 pm; December 26 @ 1:45 + 9 pm | brattlefilm.org.

Johnny Depp

The Mighty Mighty Bosstones

RASCAL KINGS

SUNDAY-TUESDAY | The impression *we* get is that the **MIGHTY MIGHTY BOSSTONES 13TH HOMETOWN THROWDOWN** will be a ton of fun. The Cambridge-bred ska-punk vets have been at it since the early '80s, and they show no signs of abandoning this beloved year-end tradition any time soon. Knock on wood. Guests during this year's three-night stint will include Boston hardcore band the **FU'S**, New York punkers **H2O**, and fellow ska relics **LESS THAN JAKE**. The throwdown goes down at the House of Blues, 15 Lansdowne St, Boston | December 26-28 @ 7 pm | $25-$30 | 800.745.3000 or ticketmaster.com.

DO GOOD

THURSDAY 23 | A benefit to back a worthwhile cause is never a bad thing. But what if you don't want to stand around sipping martinis and bidding silently? What if you just want to dance? **MAKE NOISE TO SAVE A LIFE** allows you to do just that, with proceeds going to the local suicide-prevention and support organization the Samaritans. Geared toward students, the music will come from Joe Bermudez, so come cut a rug, or whatever it is the kids are doing these days.
House of Blues, 15 Lansdowne St, Boston | 7 pm | $10-$15 | makenoisetosavealife.org

MATZO

FRIDAY | Looking to meet a "nice Jewish boy or girl" this holiday season? Or maybe you *are* a nice Jewish boy or girl. Either way, you don't want to miss the **MATZO BALL**. Sure, Hanukkah's over, but that doesn't mean the holiday social season has to end. Sponsored by the Jewish Society of Young Professionals and JDate, the Matzo Ball is the nation's largest party for Jewish singles ages 21-49. Mix, mingle, drink, and dance . . . you're invited whether you've been naughty or nice this year.
Royale, 279 Tremont St, Boston | 8 pm | $30 | matzoball.org

PSYCH

MONDAY | Improv-heavy psych-rockers **MAJOR STARS** are back with *Return to Form*, their seventh album and first since 2007. Led by the husband-and-wife team of Wayne Rogers and Kate Biggar, who operated the late, great Harvard Square record store Twisted Village, the Stars will return to the Square with fellow noisemakers **NEPTUNE** to host a post-holiday blowout for local music fans who wouldn't be caught dead at a ska show.
Charlie's Kitchen, 10 Eliot St, Cambridge | 9 pm | $5 | 617.492.9646 or charlieskitchen.com

I WANNA ROCK

THURSDAY 30 | By the time Thursday rolls around, there's a damn good chance you'll be fed up with the holidays, from the corny lights and Yuletide cheer to the shitty music that's been jammed down our throats by radio stations and stores since Black Friday. Well, the Middle East's **LAST NIGHT ON EARTH** has the cure: heavy post-rock by **CASPIAN, CONSTANTS, IREPRESS,** and **MOVING MOUNTAINS** that will have you seeing black instead of red and green.
Middle East downstairs, 480 Mass Ave, Cambridge | 8 pm | $15; $12 advance | ticketweb.com

HOT TIX

FITZ AND THE TANTRUMS | January 20 at the Brighton Music Hall, Allston | $10 | On sale now | ticketmaster.com

MEAN CREEK + TAXPAYER | January 29 at the Brighton Music Hall, Allston | $10 | On sale now | ticketmaster.com

INTERPOL + SCHOOL OF SEVEN BELLS | February 19 at the House of Blues, Boston | $30-$40 | On sale now | livenation.com

MICHAEL SHOWALTER | February 28 at the Brighton Music Hall, Allston | $12 | On sale now | ticketmaster.com

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EAT THIS!

So you're the classy type, eh? Ring in 2011 with a prix fixe dinner and overflowing goblets of fine wine. Make your reservations early, and have a Happy New Year's, fancy pants.

BELLA LUNA | At the Brewery, 284 Armory St, Jamaica Plain | *Mad Men*-inspired three-course meal featuring tuna tartare, duck à l'orange, filet mignon, a mushroom-and-goat-cheese tart, and profiteroles. Dress to impress. | 5-11 pm | $40 | 617.524.3740 x12 or milkywayjp.com

BIN 26 ENOTECA | 26 Charles St, Boston | Four courses of such Italian-influenced dishes as mushroom bruschetta and cocoa tagliatelle with porcini ragout, plus "a dizzying array of vino." | 6 + 8 + 9 pm seatings | $55; $30 more with wine pairings | 617.723.5939 or bin26.com

DBAR | 1236 Dorchester Ave, Dorchester | Four courses; dishes include oysters, black-truffle risotto, pan-seared and butter-roasted cod, and dulce de leche cheesecake. | 5-11:30 pm | $65 (includes glass of Veuve Clicquot) | 617.265.4490 or dbarboston.com

GARGOYLES ON THE SQUARE | 219 Elm St, Somerville | Celebratory three-course menu created by Chef Jason Santos. | 5-9:30 pm | $50-$70 | 617.776.5300 or gargoylesrestaurant.com

RUSSELL HOUSE TAVERN | 14 JFK St, Cambridge | Three courses: foie gras and Laphroaig terrine, petite NY strip and braised Wagyu beef cheek, and a chocolate hazelnut torte. Free champagne toast at midnight. | 5-10 pm | $59 | 617.500.3055 or russellhousecambridge.com

NEW YEAR'S EVE 2011

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DANCE YO' PANTS OFF

UHURU AFRIKA NEW YEAR'S EVE FÊTE | Afrobeat, Malian percussion, African cuisine, and a set by Julius "The Mad Thinker." | 9 pm | All Asia, 344 Mass Ave, Cambridge | $25 | showclix.com/event/15673

"MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE VS. SUPER FRESH PRODUCE" | Downstairs, Mikey Lee, Death Star, and Damien Paul spin retro dance tunes for a "Seven Minutes in Heaven" theme party; upstairs, Jay-Z's DJ Neil Armstrong and DJs Tommee and Knife play hip-hop and reggae. | 9 pm | Good Life, 28 Kingston St, Boston | $30 | goodlifebar.com

"THE PI'11 NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE PARTY" | With Freezepop, DJs Ken and Michael V., and visuals by Videodrome Discotheque. | 9 pm | Great Scott, 1222 Comm Ave, Allston | $20; $15 advance | thepilboston.com

"HEROES NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH" | Chris Ewen spins '80s new wave. | 9 pm | T.T. the Bear's Place, 10 Brookline St, Cambridge | $15 | ttthebears.com

"NYE 2011 @ RISE" | Afterhours party until 6 am, with Nightriders and Maher Daniel. | 1 am | Rise, 306 Stuart St, Boston | $25; $15 members | bit.ly/riseguestlist

PARTIES FOR PEOPLE . . . WHO LIKE SPORTS? AND GETTING RAINED ON BY BALLOONS?

NYE PARTY AT GAME ON! | Midnight balloon drop and more than 200 prizes. | 8 pm | Game On!, 82 Lansdowne St, Boston | $25 | gameonboston.com

KINGS NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY | Bowling, music, and a prix fixe dinner menu. | 8 pm | Kings, 50 Dalton St, Boston | no cover | kingsbackbay.com

Uppercrust

Y2K PARTIES, 11 YEARS LATE

"RING IN 2011 LIKE IT'S 1999" | The 'Bud's bash in Davis Square. | 8 pm | Rosebud Bar and Lounge, 381 Summer St, Somerville | $15 | rosebudbardavis.com

THIRD EYE BLIND | Semi-charmed kind of New Year's. | 9 pm | Wilbur Theatre, 246 Tremont St, Boston | $50-$65 | 800.745.3000 or ticketmaster.com

PARTY WHERE YOU GET THE SHIT KICKED OUT OF YOU AND ASK FOR MORE

"JADED XTREME KINKY NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION" | Fetish party with kinky wrestling, caged performers, vintage erotica, and Chinese buffet; strict dress code enforced. | 9 pm | Cemstones at the Blue Shamrock Pub, 105 Market St, Lowell | $15 | jadednight.com

SPEAKEASY SHINDIGS

***BOARDWALK EMPIRE* NEW YEAR'S** | Roaring Twenties theme party with live music, a DJ, and food. | 7 pm | Red Sky, 16-18 North St, Boston | $50 | redskyboston.com

"RING IN 2011 PROHIBITION-STYLE" | Dessert buffet and costume contest; zoot suits and flapper outfits encouraged. | 9 pm | Noir at the Charles Hotel, 1 Bennett St, Cambridge | $200/table [seats up to six and includes a bottle of champagne] | noir-bar.com/news

CLUB PARTIES FOR HEDONISTIC ATTENTION-SEEKERS

"BOSTON'S BEST NYE 2011" | With DJ Costa. | 10 pm | Estate, 1 Boylston Place, Boston | $50 | theestateboston.com

RUMOR NEW YEAR'S EVE | Two rooms of music and a red carpet with "paparazzi." | 9 pm | Rumor, 100 Warrenton St, Boston | $75 | rumorboston.com

PARTY WITH SHAQ

"NYE PARTY ON THE HARBOR" | Dinner, dancing, a champagne bar, midnight fireworks, and an appearance by Shaquille O'Neal; restaurateur Nick Varano (Strega) hosts. | 7 pm | Intercontinental Boston, 510 Atlantic Ave, Boston | $279 | eventbrite.com/event/1088424507

BALLS AND GALAS FOR FANCY PEOPLE WITH CASH MONEY

BOSTON'S RESOLUTION BALL | Premium cocktails, receptions, food, and VIP treatment; black tie optional. | 7:30 pm | Seaport Boston Hotel, 1 Seaport Lane, Boston | $89-$299 | bostoneventguide.com

"TIMELESS: A BOND EVENING" | Upscale James Bond–themed party "for the vogue and refined." | 9:30 pm | Boston Center for the Arts, Calderwood Pavilion, 527 Tremont St, Boston | $70-$140 | synergynye.com

PARTY BY SEA

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY CRUISE | Mass Bay Lines Boston Harbor cruise with party favors, champagne, and fireworks. | 9 pm | Departs from Rowes Wharf, Boston | $55 | massbaylines.com

COOL THEMES AND OTHER FUN SHIT

GAGA GALA | Soccer bar goes Gaga — finally, an excuse to wear your meat dress with cleats. | 9 pm | Phoenix Landing, 512 Mass Ave, Cambridge | $20; $15 advance [half-off at the door if you dress up like Ms. Germanotta] | phoenixlandingbar.com

"BIG TOP NYE 2011" | Circus-themed bash with Erik Velez and DJ Breeazy. | 9 pm | Royale, 279 Tremont St, Boston | $65 | royaleboston.com

"NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH FORTY DEUCE" | Multiple performances by the renowned burlesque troupe. | 8 pm | Revolution Rock Bar, 200 High St, Boston | $60 | revolutionrockbar.eventbrite.com

***"THE DONKEY SHOW* NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION"** | Ring in 2011 with disco and glitter; night includes a performance of the hit production, food by Chez Henri and Gargoyles on the Square, and party favors. | 9 pm | Oberon, 2 Arrow St, Cambridge | $55-$85 | cluboberon.com

"MAGIC CARPET SOUL RESOLUTION" | With Akashic Record, featuring Marsha Lubing and Nephtaliem (a/k/a Nephrok). | 9 pm | Beehive, 541 Tremont St, Boston | $65; $95 with dinner and dessert buffets | beehivenewyearseve.eventbrite.com

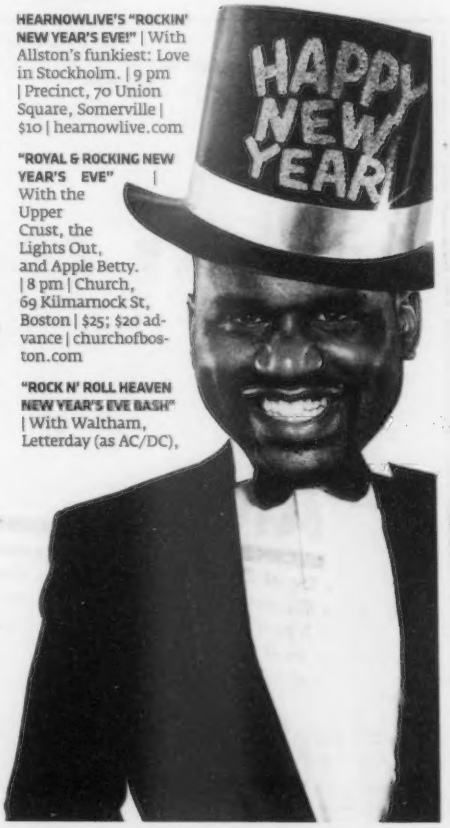
LIVE MUSIC

HEARNOWLIVE'S "ROCKIN' NEW YEAR'S EVE!" | With Allston's funkiest: Love in Stockholm. | 9 pm | Precinct, 70 Union Square, Somerville | $10 | hearnowlive.com

"ROYAL & ROCKING NEW YEAR'S EVE" | With the Upper Crust, the Lights Out, and Apple Betty. | 8 pm | Church, 69 Kilmarnock St, Boston | $25; $20 advance | churchofboston.com

"ROCK N' ROLL HEAVEN NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH" | With Waltham, Letterday (as AC/DC), the Organ Beats (as Queen), and Cradle to the Grave (as the Clash), plus a live-band karaoke contest. | 8 pm | Middle East downstairs, 480 Mass Ave, Cambridge | $25 | mideastclub.com

"CLUB BOHEMIA NEW YEAR'S EVE" | With the Big Wipeouts, Go-Go Girls, Killer Surf Videos, the Country Doctors & Wallace, the Last Ones, and more. | 8 pm | Cantab Lounge downstairs, 738 Mass Ave, Cambridge | $10 | club-bohemia.com



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READING NOT GUARANTEED

YEAR IN REVIEW

Film

EXPANDED CRITICS' LISTS: MORE TOP 10 LISTS FROM OUR REVIEWERS AT THEPHOENIX.COM/OUTSIDETHEFRAME

The Social Network

FRINGE BENEFITS

OUTSIDERS WERE IN ON SCREEN IN 2010

BY PETER KEOUGH

So many outstanding films came out this year that not only did I have a hard time narrowing my best list to 10, I started to worry that next year might totally tank to compensate. Maybe the quality has improved because filmmakers have expanded their field of focus to include subjects out of the mainstream. Almost all the movies I chose explore the margins of society and experience, from the loneliness of a monomaniacal billionaire to the outsider art of the damaged victim of a hate crime, from a childlike dancer pushed to the limits of solipsistic obsession to a young girl who's been 12 years old for a long time.

① *THE SOCIAL NETWORK*

David Fincher didn't go high tech with this exhilarating and monumental "bio-pic" about Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg (Jesse Eisenberg) Instead, he went retro, drawing on that venerable genre the screwball comedy. Zuckerberg is a latter-day Frank Capra hero with all of the spirit and none of the charm of a Jimmy Stewart. Or maybe a screwball tragedy: Mark ends up with billions of dollars and millions of friends, but does anyone love him? He tears down the established social network only to create another that is even more pervasive.

② *LET ME IN*

Swedish director Tomas Alfredson's *Let the Right One In* attracted a cult of fans who recoiled when they learned that Hollywood was going to "Americanize" it in a remake. Fear not: the remake is better than the original. Matt Reeves has kept the uncanniness and pathos of Alfredson's film and added a layer of domestic angst and despair. Chloe Moretz and Kodi Smit-McPhee put in two of the best performances of the year as a strange girl and a lonely boy whose love is both touchingly innocent and unspeakably evil.

③ *BLACK SWAN*

Darren Aronofsky's bizarre and brilliant *Black Swan* might remind you of many other movies, from *All About Eve* to David Cronenberg's *The Fly*. But it's also like nothing you've ever seen. Natalie Portman puts in her best work to date as a ballet dancer who vies with a rival played by Mila Kunis to play Odette and Odile in *Swan Lake*. At times the film seems to be taking a detour down *Mulholland Drive*, and the Grand Guignol effects border on kitsch. But Aronofsky's audacious excess and Portman's uncompromising performance triumph.

④ *MARWENCOL*

It takes a village to save a mind, and in Jeff Malmberg's documentary, the village is the imaginary World War II–era Belgian town of the title, the creation of outsider artist Mark Hogancamp. Thugs had beaten Hogancamp into a coma and left him without memory, or much else. So to recover, he made a world out of action figures, Barbie dolls, and assorted model kits. This project exercised not only his motor skills but also his imagination. Malmberg uses his own imagination, too, in this brilliant case study of the workings of art and identity.

⑤ *TOY STORY 3*

It may be about toys, but the recurrent themes of the series — transience, loss, and mortality — elevate this sequel to great art. Woody (Tom Hanks), Buzz (Tim Allen), and the gang are analog toys in a digital world. They might be talismans that cue a child's imagination, but the child is now 17. So they're carted off to daycare, which seems almost like heaven until Lots-o-Huggin' Bear and Big Baby show up. The newcomers' joylessness is met by the spunk and ingenuity of Woody and his pals — not to mention the genius of the filmmakers who've given these characters life.

⑥ *SWEETGRASS*

One of the most enigmatic close-ups on screen this year is of a sheep, which stares into the camera in this documentary from Ilisa Barbash and Lucien Castaing-Taylor about a round-up on Beartooth Mountain. With luminous clarity, the filmmakers record the trek of the critters as they're driven over the Montana landscape to summer grazing. But Barbash and Castaing-Taylor also create an artifact of a dying lifestyle — and perhaps an artifact of an endangered kind of filmmaking, one that confronts reality and asks viewers to do the same.

⑦ *TRUE GRIT*

Joel and Ethan Coen's eloquent and sometimes hilarious adaptation of the splendid Charles Portis novel joins the pantheon of great Westerns alongside *The Searchers*, *The Wild Bunch*, and *Unforgiven*. Jeff Bridges will drive out memories of John Wayne's 1969 Oscar-winning performance in the same role as he plays crapulous US marshal Rooster Cogburn, who's enlisted by indomitable 14-year-old Mattie Ross (Hailee Steinfeld) to hunt down her father's killer. Humane, magnificent, and tragic.

⑧ *PLEASE GIVE*

Here's a candidate for Best Supporting Actress for 2010: Ann Morgan Guilbert as Andra, the 90-year-old who not only refuses to drop dead for the convenience of those waiting for her apartment but won't be sentimentalized, caricatured, or otherwise denied her orneriness. Such characters are part of why Nicole Holofcener is one of the best directors in America, and why this film is so funny and heartbreaking. Catherine Keener and Oliver Platt as Andra's morally compromised neighbors are also brilliant. Please give it chance.

⑨ *MOTHER*

In Bong Joon-ho's twisted thriller, a girl is found murdered and the police investigation gets nowhere, so they pin the blame on a simple-minded youth whom they bamboozle into a confession. But they don't figure on the power of a mother's love. She sets out on an investigation of her own, in the course of which she reveals the rottenness behind the façade of propriety and demonstrates how the bonds of blood are more ruthless than the protocols of the powers that be. This is the best film yet by one of Korea's best filmmakers.

⑩ *A PROPHET*

Jacques Audiard's harrowing, convulsive film is about a prophet who says little but sees all. Accepting nihilism as a starting point, Malik El Djebena hides behind seeming innocence, manipulating the cruelty, greed, and hatred of others and exploiting those who would exploit him to gain power. A 19-year-old processed into prison for some unspecified crime, he's a blank slate who, Yojimbo-like, learns to play one side against the other and come out a winner. Audiard wins too, with a style as stark and ruthless as his protagonist's calculations.

PLEASE GIVE Catherine Keener and Oliver Platt are brilliant in this film from one of America's best directors, Nicole Holofcener.

Film

SOMEWHERE Will Stephen Dorff and Elle Fanning figure out that they need each other?

WAYNE'S WORLD

THE COEN BROTHERS ARE *TRUE* TO *GRIT*

_BY PETER KEOUGH

TRUE GRIT

DIRECTED BY JOEL AND ETHAN COEN | WRITTEN BY JOEL AND ETHAN COEN BASED ON THE NOVEL BY CHARLES PORTIS | WITH JEFF BRIDGES, MATT DAMON, HAILEE STEINFELD, JOSH BROLIN, AND BARRY PEPPER | PARAMOUNT STUDIOS | 114 MINUTES

BOSTON COMMON • FENWAY • HARVARD SQUARE • FRESH POND • WEST NEWTON • SUBURBS

FORD APPEAL The Coens continue their progress from cynicism to tragedy, smart-ass sadism to Old Testament gravity.

Those who saw John Wayne's Oscar-winning, scenery-chewing turn as "Rooster" Cogburn in Henry Hathaway's 1969 adaptation of *True Grit* might have a hard time shaking that off when it comes to appreciating Jeff Bridges in the same part. That is, until they realize that the Wayne movies Joel and Ethan Coen's adaptation of Charles Portis's perfect little novel most evoke are John Ford's *The Searchers* (1956) and *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance* (1962). Bumptious though it might be, Bridges's performance touches on the same depths and complexities that Wayne did in those masterpieces. And the Coen brothers, like Ford, confront and clarify the paradoxes their film raises.

Following *No Country for Old Men* (2008) and *A Serious Man* (2009), *True Grit* also marks another stage in the Coens' maturation, as they progress from cynicism to tragedy, from the sadism of smart-asses to the gravity of the Old Testament. Their gravity is now worthy of that most venerable and profound of American genres, the Western.

The good news is, they haven't lost their sense of humor in the process. Theirs is a raffish version of Reuben Cogburn, a US marshal assigned to the anarchic 1870s Oklahoma Indian Territory and the instrument of the wrath of 14-year-old Mattie Ross (Hailee Steinfeld). Bridges's Rooster is at first more Dude than Duke. Unwashed, buffoonish, and besotted with confiscated whiskey, he seems an unlikely upholder of the law — especially the flinty Calvinist version espoused by Mattie.

In Mattie's opinion, however, Cogburn has "true grit." Not so much toughness, or resolve, or integrity, but the kind of macho ruthlessness that gets its way regardless of legal technicalities or the consequences. That's what she needs to bring to justice Tom Chaney (Josh Brolin), the feckless trash who in a moment of drunken rage and petty larceny gunned down her father. And as Cogburn himself notes with growing admiration, it's a quality that Mattie shares. She's an adolescent, starchier version of Frances McDormand's sheriff in *Fargo* (1996), though with a lot more at stake.

Complicating matters is the arrival of the vain, churlish Texas Ranger LaBoeuf (Matt Damon), who's been tracking Chaney to collect a bounty on him for a previous murder. Whatever grit LaBoeuf might have remains to be seen. Together they make an uneasy trio as they comb the lawless Indian Territory (shot with haunting majesty by Richard Deakins) in search of Chaney, who's taken refuge with an outlaw band slightly less ineffectual than the one in *The Ladykillers*. It's a fairly laid-back mission, interrupted by brief violence and the kind of macabre absurdities that remain the Coens' stock in trade. Neither does the outcome appear much in doubt. It doesn't seem a fair match: Mattie, played with authority by Steinfeld, could likely handle Chaney and his fellow desperadoes herself.

She, after all, has the power of civilization and righteousness behind her — she's the kind of woman who, as in Westerns from *Stagecoach* (1939) to *McCabe & Mrs. Miller* (1971) to *Unforgiven* (1992), manipulates the aggressiveness of her "protectors" and turns it against bad guys who in fact merely embody the good guys' own worst impulses. The scene in which Cogburn bears the stricken Mattie to safety may pack the same emotional wallop as the climax of *The Searchers*. But the tragic dénouement is more like that in *Liberty Valance*. It's summed up in the final shot of a moneyed spinster, still unbent and undaunted, standing next to a gravestone. ⊙

GETTING *SOMEWHERE*

SOFIA COPPOLA IS CLOSER THAN YOU THINK

_BY PETER KEOUGH

SOMEWHERE

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY SOFIA COPPOLA | WITH STEPHEN DORFF, ELLE FANNING, AND CHRIS PONTIUS | FOCUS FEATURES | 98 MINUTES

KENDALL SQUARE

Sofia Coppola doesn't shy from dipping into the sophomoric, or indulging in the obvious, self-conscious metaphor. Her wispy, sardonic new *Somewhere* opens with a man racing his Ferrari in circles in the desert, entering and leaving the unmoving frame with the regularity of a metronome. What could that mean? On the other hand, a distinct sensibility often underlies Coppola's half-baked symbols — a feeling for tone, a knack for timing, and an instinct for the absurd. She will persist with her banal conceit, and after a few more laps with the car, the metaphor fades and out of it emerges something funny, and very sad.

The driver of the Ferrari is Johnny Marco (Stephen Dorff), a down-and-out Hollywood action star whose popularity might still be bankable but whose selfishness and hedonism have long since bottomed out. He has so little self-respect left, he'll stare blankly as a co-star sarcastically insults him during a photo shoot promoting their new film. He'll remain impassive as he endures having a plaster cast made of his head by the studio f/x department. And at best, he'll manage a tiny smile as he watches twins pole-dance in his suite at the Chateau Marmont for his waning amusement. In directing actors, then, Coppola has not advanced much beyond the Jim Jarmusch school of affectlessness and long takes. But, like the car in the desert, these sequences improve with repetition.

So far, *Somewhere* might seem a reprise of Coppola's *Lost in Translation* (2003) — or, if you're inclined to an autobiographical interpretation, a version of her own youth with her one-time-dissipated father, Francis. Because Johnny's 11-year-old daughter, Cleo (Elle Fanning), is about to enter the story, pressed into his charge by his estranged wife, who appears to be going through some existential crisis of her own.

Despite her troubled parentage, Cleo seems well adjusted, and she's not fazed by arriving unexpected at the tail end of one of Johnny's debauches. Savvy and facetious, but also innocent and vulnerable, she makes the most of her new circumstances, appreciating the blurred moments of affection or badinage her dad is able to offer between bouts of booze-fueled indifference — though, in truth, she gets more quality time with Johnny's goofy pal Sammy (Chris Pontius of *Jackass* notoriety). Minimal though it may be, Fanning's performance is yet one more in a fine field of current adolescent actresses that also includes Chloë Moretz and Hailee Steinfeld.

And that's about it for a story. The rest is episodic, building to a kind of catharsis. Cleo tags along as Johnny goes about his marginal business. His publicity trip to Italy allows Coppola to condescend to silly foreigners the way she did in *Lost in Translation*. At one point, Johnny appears on an Italian awards show that's as ridiculous as Bill Hader's Vinny Vedecci spot on *SNL*. (The irony is that *Somewhere* itself won the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival.)

So Johnny and Cleo bounce off each other with the same kind of crusty-adult/winsome-kid dynamic that has worked on screen since, well, *The Kid* (1921), with periodic updates in such films as *Paper Moon* (1973) and *Matchstick Men* (2003). True to this formula, the interaction here, however sparse, between father and daughter brings home to both that something is missing in their lives. Coppola hasn't quite determined what that something might be, but it's somewhere in this movie. ⊙

Film

ALL GOOD THINGS Ryan Gosling and Kirsten Dunst try to figure out whether they're in a documentary or a feature.

Short Takes MOVIE REVIEWS IN BRIEF

⊕⊕⊖

ALL GOOD THINGS

101 MINUTES | KENDALL SQUARE

One thing is clear from Andrew Jarecki's account of the mysterious career of David Marks (Ryan Gosling): David should never have left the Vermont country store of the title, which he and his wife, Katie (Kirsten Dunst), established to escape his slumlord father (Frank Langella). But thanks in part to Jarecki's fractured chronology, everything else is up in the air in this adaptation of the true story of Robert Durst, troubled scion of a wealthy Manhattan family. Like, how did David go from wearing a tuxedo when first meeting Katie to wearing a dress in a rooming house while evading several murder raps? Jarecki didn't have all the answers in his brilliant documentary *Capturing the Friedmans* (2003), either, but in that effort, ambiguity was a virtue. In his first fictional feature, he can't decide whether to opt for the open-ended inquiry of a non-fiction film or the resolved storytelling of Hollywood genre movie, so he winds up stranded in between.

_Peter Keough

⊕

GULLIVER'S TRAVELS

85 MINUTES | BOSTON COMMON + FENWAY + FRESH POND + SUBURBS: OPENS CHRISTMAS DAY

Jonathan Swift's epitaph reads, "Where savage indignation can no longer lacerate his breast." Rob Letterman's adaptation of the great man's satire might nonetheless have him spinning in his grave. In a world where Swift appears never to have existed, Lemuel Gulliver (Jack Black) is a mailroom clerk for "The New York Tribune." He'd be happy to be one of the "little people," except that he has a crush on Darcy (Amanda Peet), the travel editor. To impress her, he submits some — appropriately — plagiarized writing samples and gets assigned to the Bermuda Triangle. There, he ends up in Lilliput, the land of little people, where he becomes a big shot, transforming the kingdom into a Times Square where every neon sign bears his leering image. Hubris, in other words. Then he learns his lesson: be yourself, or something. A side trip to Brobdingnag offers a Swiftian kick, but this travesty is so pitiful, it isn't even worth being indignant.

_Peter Keough

⊕⊕

THE LEGEND OF PALE MALE

85 MINUTES | COOLIDGE CORNER

Frederic Lilien fled a career he would have hated as a lawyer in his father's firm in Belgium to land in New York . . . and do what? How about spending 20 years of your life making a documentary about a red-tailed hawk who in the early 1990s relocated to Manhattan, nesting on the ledge of a Fifth Avenue high-rise and scouring Central Park for pigeons and rats. The hawk, named Pale Male by the many humans who followed his career by telescope and camera, became a Big Apple celeb as he mated with various female hawks and raised his baby chicks. Pale Male's story turned into a major media event when the Grinch-like co-op board of directors at 927 Fifth Avenue tore down the nest. All of the above is fairly interesting and quietly touching, but Lilien's telling of the tale via voiceover is corny and overwrought and way too sentimental. This one's strictly for the bird-watchers.

_Gerald Peary

⊕

LITTLE FOCKERS

106 MINUTES | BOSTON COMMON + FENWAY + HARVARD SQUARE + SOMERVILLE THEATRE + CHESTNUT HILL + EMBASSY + ARLINGTON CAPITOL + SUBURBS

Mean Streets, *Taxi Driver*, and . . . *Little Fockers*? Robert De Niro and Harvey Keitel are reunited after 34 years, and all we get is a lame Keitel cameo? At least Dustin Hoffman, citing concerns over the script, had the good sense not to reprise his role from Jay Roach's *Meet the Fockers* (2004). But wait! Early in this humorless sequel, Greg Focker (Ben Stiller) is on the phone with his mom, Roz (Barbra Streisand), when dad Bernie (Hoffman) joins the conversation from Seville. That's right, Hoffman actually does phone in his performance in what is a money grab for everyone, new director Paul Weitz (*American Dreamz*) included. Nurse Greg secretly moonlights by promoting an erectile-dysfunction drug to pay for his twins' education, and that raises the eyebrows of ailing father-in-law Jack (De Niro), who was looking to Greg to succeed him in the patriarchal role of "Godfocker." In the end, though, it's the limp comedy that needs a shot of "Sustengo."

_Brett Michel

THE LEGEND OF PALE MALE America's best-known red-tailed hawk, this Big Apple celebrity deserved a better movie.

⊕⊕⊕⊖

RARE EXPORTS: A CHRISTMAS TALE

FINNISH + ENGLISH | 80 MINUTES | KENDALL SQUARE

Pietari (Onni Tommila) lives in the icy mountains of Finland. He lives alone with his father, a reindeer herder; his mother is dead. Up on the mountain, some Americans are excavating, making a mess with dynamite. "Geological samples," the local men mutter. Pietari knows it's something far worse: they're exhuming the grave of Santa Claus. Soon, the reindeer are dead. The miners have vanished. And there's something unspeakable in the bear trap of Pietari's father . . . A horror movie about Santa might seem to lend itself to camp, but director Jalmari Helander never so much as winks at his audience. *Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale* is beautifully shot and scored, and the pacing is perfect. The end gets a little silly, but the building tension of the first two acts allows for some deliciously creepy moments and a true feeling of dread: the sense of something very old, and very hungry, shuffling toward you in the Yuletide dark.

_S. I. Rosenbaum

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RABBIT HOLE

92 MINUTES | BOSTON COMMON + KENDALL SQUARE: OPENS CHRISTMAS DAY

Rabbit Hole takes its title from a graphic novel about alternate realities written by one of the film's characters. The novel is pretty good — too bad director John Cameron Mitchell didn't adapt it instead of David Lindsay-Abaire's lugubrious play. The teenage graphic-novelist is Jason (Miles Teller), who's still feeling guilty about his involvement in a tragic loss suffered by the Corbetts, Becca (Nicole Kidman) and Howie (Aaron Eckhart). They're feeling guilty too, so they attend a kind of 12-step program for those in the same situation — which allows Mitchell and Lindsay-Abaire to make fun of mawkish grieving while at the same time indulging in it. Things take a promising turn when Becca stalks and finally makes contact with Jason, but the film doesn't have the imagination or daring to do much with the relationship. Also breaking from the mold is Dianne Wiest as Becca's dim but dogged mother. Her performance suggests that in a parallel universe this might be a much better movie.

_Peter Keough

YOUR BEST OF 2010: WHAT WERE YOUR FAVORITE GAMES OF THE YEAR? VOTE AT THEPHOENIX.COM/LASERORGY500 OR TWEET @LASERORGY

YEAR IN REVIEW

Games

HEAVY REIGN

SONY'S PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER TOPS THE BEST GAMES OF 2010

BY MITCH KRPATA

The most frustrating thing about being a gamer is trying to keep up with the hype train. Every week or two, it seems, we're treated to another round of breathless encomiums for a game that reviewers assure us is the best or, God help us, the most important one ever made. Then we forget all about it when the next big thing comes along. And it happens every time.

As I looked back over the year in games, what struck me wasn't the quality of the offerings that came out — rather, it was how I had forgotten that most of them came out this year! Did you remember that *Super Mario Galaxy 2* was a 2010 release? *God of War III*? *Mass Effect 2*? All were canonized when they appeared, but what's the last time you heard anyone talk about them?

On the other hand, it's clear that top-quality games are now a year-round phenomenon and not just a seasonal blip. Of my top 10 games of the year, three came out before March. If you'd already forgotten that any of them existed, now's your chance to catch up.

① *HEAVY RAIN*
Sony Computer Entertainment America

It wasn't the story that made *Heavy Rain* so great but the story-*telling*. That's an important distinction. To describe the plot makes this game sound like a standard-issue Hollywood yarn. We have four playable protagonists, each one cut from familiar cloth. A grief-stricken father races to rescue his kidnapped son from a moralizing serial killer. A precocious FBI agent struggles with his inner demons. A crusading journalist becomes part of the story. And a genial private investigator knows more than he lets on.

Yet, in *Heavy Rain*'s slow and methodical approach to telling its tale, it charts emotional waters that most games avoid. There are moments of tenderness, as when the private investigator tends to a baby with a messy diaper, and scenes of despair, as when the bereaved father melts down under police questioning about his missing son. If most games give us power fantasies, *Heavy Rain* provides the opposite: powerlessness fantasies.

All the while, the plot hurtles forward. Critics have pointed to a lack of interactivity, and it's true that the game lacks the kind of direct control that players expect. But when an action scene begins — like a car chase in the oncoming lane of the highway, or a rooftop escape from the cops — we feel as panicked and helpless as the characters do. One way or another, *Heavy Rain* seems to say, this story's heading for a conclusion. Better hope you can make it the right one.

② *NEED FOR SPEED: HOT PURSUIT*
Electronic Arts

I find it hard to talk about *Need for Speed: Hot Pursuit* without sounding like one of those quote whores whose names you see in the commercials for crappy movies. But here's the thing: *Hot Pursuit* really *is* a pulse-pounding, white-knuckle thrill ride that will leave you breathless. I can't even load up the title screen without hyperventilating. Although it offers several racing modes, the heart of this one is a cops-versus-criminals demolition derby offering a dizzying sense of speed, tight arcade-style controls, and weaponry that demands both skill and tactics. What a rush.

③ *BIOSHOCK 2*
2K Games

Raise your hand if you thought a sequel to *BioShock* was necessary. Me neither. This seemed like a bad idea from the start, one that could end up only as a blight on the original. And yet *BioShock 2* didn't just measure up to its predecessor but in some ways surpassed it. The gameplay was familiar enough to fans; it was the story — a measured, potent tale about fatherhood and legacy — that enabled the sequel to expand, not diminish, the world of Rapture.

DEATHSPANK Packing even more punchlines than punches, Hothead's action RPG was the year's best bargain.

HEAVY RAIN In its slow and methodical approach to telling its tale, this Sony entry charted emotional waters that most games avoid.

④ *ROCK BAND 3*
MTV Games

From the commercial standpoint, 2010 was not a good year for music games. Sales of the newest *Guitar Hero* plummeted; Viacom put *Rock Band* developer Harmonix up for sale. Even the most ardent fan of the genre must admit that the market feels saturated. But that didn't stop *Rock Band 3* from becoming the best music game yet: it added a new keyboard part, plus the unexpected "pro mode," which brings players closer than ever to making music for real.

⑤ *RED DEAD REDEMPTION*
Rockstar Games

Rockstar Games builds incredible worlds, but you knew that already. It was no surprise that the company's version of the Wild West was by turns gorgeous, imposing, desolate, and vibrant. But *Red Dead Redemption* also offered Rockstar's most mature storytelling to date, with its most complex and sympathetic protagonist. John Marston is everything you could ask for in an Old West hero: humble, straightforward, and fueled by an inner fire that his enemies just can't extinguish.

⑥ *DANCE CENTRAL*
Microsoft Game Studios

I'm still not convinced that Microsoft's Kinect isn't a gimmick. The peripheral's slogan — "You are the controller" — sounds appealing only for games in which a controller would not be preferable. Which rules out almost every game in existence. Every game, that is, except for *Dance Central*, which makes you earn the right to be the controller. It demands that your every body part move precisely in time to the music, in precisely the right places. Play through a few routines and you might even start to feel like a real dancer — or just collapse in a sweaty heap.

⑦ *DEATHSPANK*
Hothead Games

Hilarious. That's all you need to know about *DeathSpank*, the action RPG that packed even more punchlines than punches — and it packed a whole lot of punches. Players could explore deep dialogue trees that piled the gags so high, you couldn't see over them. Chaotic, button-mashing combat wasn't especially deep, but it sure was satisfying to unleash one of DeathSpank's devastating combo powers. A deal at any price, the $15 downloadable title was surely the year's best bargain.

⑧ *HALO: REACH*
Microsoft Game Studios

With *Reach*, the final *Halo* game to be developed by its creator, Bungie Studios, I think I finally got it. That's not because of anything Bungie did radically different this time around, though *Reach* certainly is a polished and multifaceted offering. Rather, it's because I found the right framework to make *Halo* mine. I spent most of my time playing cooperatively with friends scattered around the country, and it was here that *Reach*'s wide-open battlefields and dynamic enemy AI asserted themselves. Like the Spartans we command, my friends and I will fight on.

⑨ *BAYONETTA*
Sega

Starring a freakishly tall librarian type with a beehive hairdo and full-body spandex, *Bayonetta* might have been the most embarrassing game of the year, but it was also one of the most fun. It offered upbeat J-pop, religiously confused iconography, and combat so fast, it could give you whiplash. Not since *Devil May Cry 3* has a third-person brawler combined so much speed with so much power — and the looks to match.

⑩ *FINAL FANTASY XIII*
Square Enix

In a year full of ill-advised sequels and reboots that never made it off the launching pad, *Final Fantasy XIII* changed by not changing at all. Well, that's not exactly true: far more focused and linear than many of its predecessors, the 13th installment in the increasingly inaccurately named franchise got back to basics with a robust combat system and the series's most humanistic characters. Not exactly a paradigm shift, FFXIII nevertheless kept the banner flying for the world's best-loved RPG series.

READ JEFFREY GANTZ'S REVIEW OF *THE CHRISTMAS REVELS* AT THEPHOENIX.COM

YEAR IN REVIEW

Theater

THE LIFE AND ADVENTURES OF NICHOLAS NICKLEBY The Lyric Stage Company of Boston encompassed the full sprawl of David Edgar's adaptation.

STAGE WORTHIES

THEATER BUSTED OUT ALL OVER IN 2010

_BY CAROLYN CLAY

Renovation and reanimation were the news this year, and that led one to wonder: if the Fabulous Invalid is so sick, why does it need so many new cribs? On Washington Street alone, spring saw the opening of Emerson College's beautifully restored Paramount Center and fall the opening of Suffolk University's Modern Theatre, both rescued from Combat Zone squalor by knights of academe. Then in June, new presenter ArtsEmerson announced inaugural programming for the Paramount's two stages that promised to knock theatergoers' socks off, ranging from Ireland's leading theaters to productions by legendary director Peter Brook. Also returned from the dead is North Shore Music Theatre, which had canceled its 2009 season, only to be up and singing again in 2010. But enough about real estate and on to the most memorable of what went on behind the fourth wall.

PAGE ON STAGE

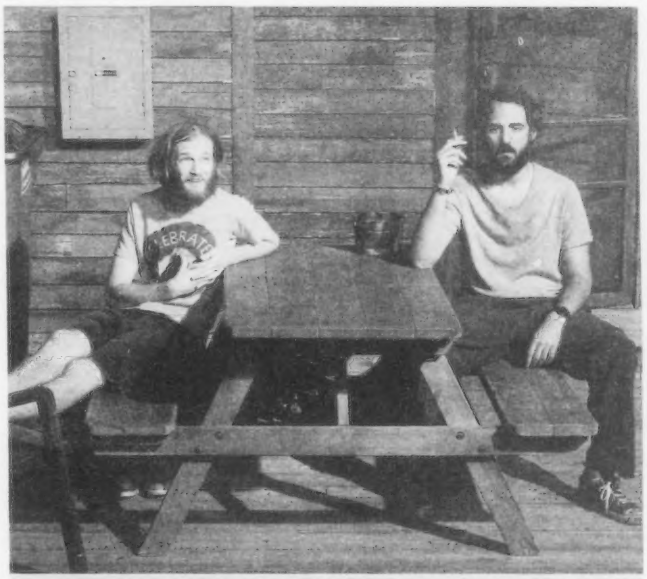
The first of several marathons this year, ***GATZ*** stretched itself across six and a half hours and the Loeb Drama Center stage in an Elevator Repair Service production presented by the American Repertory Theatre. The dingy office setting looked more 1990s than Roaring '20s, but the script of this mesmeric *tour de force* consisted of F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel *The Great Gatsby* read, every gorgeous phoneme, in its entirety, often amid a swirl of file cabinets and flying paper. A spellbinding experience in which the elegantly conjured events of the book gradually overtook the mundane doings of the workplace, the piece was both a testament to the power of prose and a reflection on the quixotic, ephemeral nature of performance.

GUILTY SECRETS

The Huntington Theatre Company proved itself master of the family drama with stellar productions of Arthur Miller's ***ALL MY SONS***, directed by David Esbjornson, and Lydia R. Diamond's ***STICK FLY***, directed by Kenny Leon. Wrenchingly acted by Karen MacDonald and Will Lyman, this *Sons* captured not just the Ibsen but also the anguished O'Neill in Miller's moral drama. And Diamond, peeking into the closets of an upper-class African-American family, proved you can also add a splash of O'Neill to an audacious cocktail of *Cosby* and cultural anthropology.

SEX AND SYMPATHY

Desperation clashed with decorum in two proofs that if the heart is a lonely hunter, it is also a ruthless one. The Publick Theatre revived Joe Orton's deliciously Freudian 1964 absurdist comedy ***ENTERTAINING MR. SLOANE***, in which middle-aged siblings war in doily-covered Brit surroundings for the sexual ministrations of a sly young pick-up. Diego Arciniegas directed an excellent cast led by Sandra Shipley's dowdy mix of doormat and cougar. In Terrence McNally's less archly written but even grittier game of seduction, ***FRANKIE AND JOHNNY IN THE CLAIR DE LUNE***, Anne Gottlieb and Robert Pemberton made beautiful losers of the title pair in Antonio Ocampo-Guzman's staging for New Repertory Theatre.



THE ALIENS Beckett meets Bogosian in this "Shirley, VT" play from Annie Baker, but the real news was that three Boston companies teamed up to give us the entire Shirley trilogy.

LITTLE ORPHAN OPRAH

No one does shoestring spectacle like Ryan Landry and his Gold Dust Orphans, who pulled out all the stops in their mash-up of Gaston Leroux, Andrew Lloyd Webber, and the queen of daytime television, ***PHANTOM OF THE OPRAH*** — not to mention in their revival of Landry's lampoon/homage inspired by Alfred Hitchcock, ***THE GULLS***. Raunchy jokes, cartoon sets, and fabulous costumes were abetted in the first case by an uncanny turn by Varla Jean Merman as haunted soprano Christine Daaé and in the second by avian attackers made out of everything but hot fudge.

SPEAKEASY DOES IT (AGAIN)

SpeakEasy Stage Company brought musical ferocity and grim stylishness to ***ADDING MACHINE: A MUSICAL***, Joshua Schmidt & Jason Loewith's startlingly successful setting of Elmer Rice's 1923 Expressionist indictment of mechanized modern life, *The Adding Machine*, here directed by Paul Melone. I missed the troupe's ***IN THE NEXT ROOM (OR THE VIBRATOR PLAY)***, but my colleague, Ed Siegel, found Scott Edmiston's staging of Sarah Ruhl's Pulitzer finalist "exquisitely funny" without screwing up the "delicate balance of science, sex, and love."

IRISH AYES

Tír Na Theatre Company scored the miniature triumph of the year with Irish writer Mark Doherty's hilarious if also poignant fable ***TRAD***, in which a 100-year-old man and his moribund da trek the expansive, insular expanse of Ireland in search of misplaced kin. Directed by Carmel O'Reilly and played with wit and precision by Colin Hamell, Billy Meleady, and Nancy E. Carroll, this was, in the tradition of Beckett, a vaudeville routine that blossomed into a poem.

PLAINS SPEAKING

The Plains are compared to the blues in Tracy Letts's ***AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY***, a hilariously lacerating, Oklahoma-set dysfunctional-family drama that won the 2008 Pulitzer Prize. And in the production that touched down at the Colonial Theatre, starring octogenarian Estelle Parsons as the vituperative matriarch, those Plains were sung with a plaint that would peel paint.

TRIPLE PLAY

The Huntington Theatre Company, SpeakEasy Stage Company, and Company One teamed up to serve as theatrical chamber of commerce for "Shirley, VT," fictional hub of the œuvre of preternaturally wise 29-year-old playwright Annie Baker. Taken together, these works revealed a delicate hand working in small, deliberately stunted brush strokes, the results often cringingly funny yet humane to the core. The Huntington's ***CIRCLE MIRROR TRANSFORMATION***, directed by Melia Bensussen, and SpeakEasy's ***BODY AWARENESS***, helmed by Paul Daigneault, made fine showcases for Baker's disarmingly compassionate wit. But Shawn LaCount's bravely drifting Company One staging of the sadder, quirkier ***THE ALIENS*** showed her at her elliptical best.

NO LITTLE DICKENS

Why toss off *A Christmas Carol* when you can people your small stage with the full sprawl of ***THE LIFE AND ADVENTURES OF NICHOLAS NICKLEBY*** in two parts spanning six hours of Victorian hubbub and societal indictment, with 25 of the area's best thespians playing more than 150 parts? Lyric Stage Company of Boston honcho Spiro Veloudos pulled off Brit playwright David Edgar's adaptation of the novel, turning it into a satisfying theatrical feast full of villainous gristle but finished with Dickens's trademark milk of human kindness.

LOSS IN BLOOM

THE BLUE FLOWER was no common hydrangea but a musically driven journey through literal and artistic battlefields of the first half of the 20th century. This theatrical collage of artwork, text, music, and videography — the creation of composer/musician Jim Bauer and artist Ruth Bauer, 10 years in the making and given a gorgeously grungy sheen by the American Repertory Theatre under the direction of Will Pomerantz — was thin on dramaturgy but swollen with feeling. The oft-ravishing melodies of Jim Bauer's Weimar-meets-country tunes pierced the heart, and the ART deployed singer-actors who could deliver them in all their lush longing.

YEAR IN REVIEW

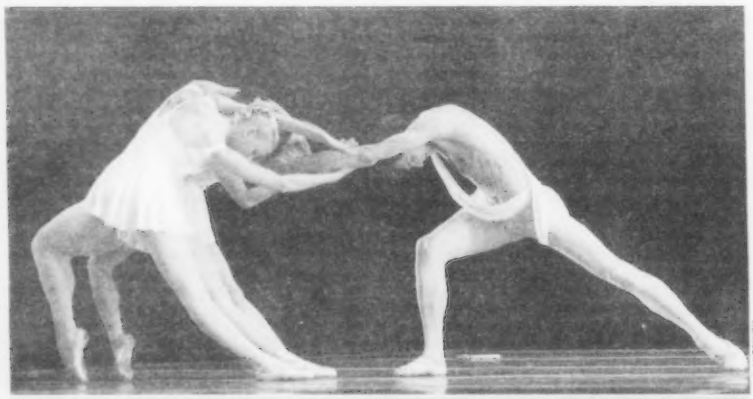
Dance

FRÄULEIN MARIA Doug Elkins's take on *The Sound of Music* was a witty amalgam of contemporary dance, hip-hop, splintered identities, postmodern innuendo, and nostalgic charm.

PROJECTIONS PAST AND FUTURE

TRADITION, INNOVATION, AND (LOVING) PARODY ANIMATED THE YEAR'S DANCE

BY MARCIA B. SIEGEL



ERIC ANTONIOU

APOLLO Boston Ballet's all-Balanchine program in May made clear the choreographer's pre-eminence and brought out the best in the company's dancers.

Some of the past year's most interesting dance events recaptured iconic moments in our history, either as usable texts for today's dancers or as a springboard into reinterpretation, parody, and nostalgia. The texts themselves — those classic dances that form the backbone of the art — aren't as stable as we think, but they still stand as markers of style, technique, and attitude. Classical ballet may go in and out of fashion, but it won't disappear as long as dancers inhabit its literature.

BOSTON BALLET regularly invests in contemporary choreographic works, but it also keeps its classical tools sharpened on 19th-century story ballets (*Coppélia* and *La Bayadère* this year, and of course *The Nutcracker*) and a steady supply of George Balanchine's ballets. The all-Balanchine program in May was an indulgence in the best sense: a banquet of intense dancing in three different tones.

In these ballets alone — the fusion of myth and modernism in *Apollo* (1928), the formalist drama of *Four Temperaments* (1948), and the spectacle of pure classicism of *Theme and Variations* (1947) — we could recognize Balanchine's versatility, his dance invention. We could see why he's been ballet's pre-eminent choreographer for so long. Boston Ballet's continuing relationship with his work challenged the corps de ballet, and it brought out impressive featured performances by Misa Kuranaga, John Lam, Jeffrey Cirio, Kathleen Breen Combes, Tiffany Hedman, Whitney Jensen, and James Whiteside.

It wasn't just ballet repertory that broadened our historical perspective in 2010. **BOSTON CONSERVATORY** revived 20th-century modern-dance works by Anna Sokolow and Boston-based Joseph Gifford in March, and Alwin Nikolais in the fall. **SUMMER STAGES DANCE** honored teacher/choreographer Dan Wagoner with a homey evening of reminiscences by Wagoner and members of his now-disbanded company. When you look at this relatively recent work, you realize how individualistic the modern dancers were, both for the way they framed movement and for their persistence in realizing their own particular visions.

Few contemporary artists undertake a thorough assessment of the entire enterprise, or are able to imprint their own personalities on the information they've absorbed from their teachers. **STEPHEN PETRONIO** ramped up the cool postmodernism of his mentor, Trisha Brown, into virtuosic high-energy ensemble work. His gorgeous company showed the full-length *I Drink the Air Before Me* at the Institute of Contemporary Art in March. Hard to believe, but Petronio started his company more than 25 years ago. He's a mid-career artist now.

MEREDITH MONK belongs to an even older generation of singular artists. A visionary singer, composer, director, and filmmaker, Monk began in the 1960s, and her influence flows way beyond the dance field. *Inner Voice*, a documentary film by Babeth M. VanLoo, recaps her career and recalls some of her most memorable theater pieces while tracking the development of the spiritually resonant 2009 *Songs of Ascension*.

Revivals and documentaries are one way to look back at our past. Another is to use those performances we've loved or heard about to trigger off new performance pieces. The oldest of this year's reconfigured memories was **JEROME ROBBINS**'s *New York Export: Opus Jazz*. Made for Robbins's short-lived Ballets USA in 1958, *Opus Jazz* brought streetwise ballet dancing to Europe when the company toured abroad.

Five years ago, when New York City Ballet staged a revival, dancers Ellen Bar and Sean Suozzi began filming the ballet as a "reality" take. Their camera follows the dancers through the city to parks and parking lots, trains and side streets, as they get ready to perform sections of the dance on location. Craig Hall & Rachel Rutherford's duet on New York City's High Line, a scruffy disused railroad track (now a park), conveyed a fine sense of urban desolation Robbins would have recognized. *Great Performances* aired the film on public television in March.

New York Export: Opus Jazz first appeared around the same time as *The Sound of Music* arrived on Broadway, when **DOUG ELKINS** was only nine years old. His 2006 *Fräulein Maria*, which came to the newly rehabilitated Paramount Theatre in September, is a comic take on the Rogers & Hammerstein musical. Elkins's witty show layered the soundtrack of the 1965 Julie Andrews movie into an amalgam of contemporary dance, hip-hop, splintered identities, postmodern innuendo, and nostalgic charm.

David Parker and Jeff Kazin, fellow traffickers in parody, appeared in *Fräulein Maria*, and in July, with the **BANG GROUP**, they deconstructed another bunch of show tunes as a benefit for Summer Stages Dance. There's a splash of love in the kind of thing Parker, Kazin, and Elkins do that takes the bite out of their irreverence. The **BALLETS TROCKADERO DE MONTE CARLO** specialize more in parody that blends astute character assassination with precision comic technique and timing. The Trocks played Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in July. Their repertory of shredded masterpieces, rendered by hefty male ballerinas and their cowering partners, is a classic in itself by now.

BASIL TWIST compressed a ballet classic about puppets into a real puppet booth with his *Petrushka*. Twist's hand-manipulated puppets and their surreal story came to the Paramount in November. Controlled by their nine invisible puppeteers, these exquisitely crafted miniature characters moved like real dancers. The fictional Magician was represented by two outsize hands hovering over them, an eerie menace.

A single puppet and his five handlers were at the center of **DAN HURLIN**'s *Disfarmer* at the ICA, an extraordinary piece about a forgotten American recluse photographer of the mid 20th century. The orderly but deranged world of this hermit was brought to life in evocative detail by Hurlin's actor-handlers, as they activated a movable dollhouse set, surprising theatrical effects, and a puppet character who gets smaller and crazier as the years go by.

Another other-worldly theater piece, **EVAN ZIPORYN**'s *A House in Bali*, came to the Cutler Majestic. Ziporyn's ambitious multimedia, multi-voiced work was inspired by the life of composer Colin McPhee, who became captivated and in a way haunted by the music and culture of one of the world's most exotic destinations.

Great dancing and choreography may seem to come out of thin air, but they always have some precedent. Performing traditions stay alive because they're always being reinterpreted by new voices. It was a pleasure to see a master tap dancer (**JOSH HILBERMAN**'s jazz rhythms as master of ceremonies at the Beantown Tap Fest's faculty show) and a flamenco dancer (**ANGELITA VARGAS** headlining "Fall Flamenco" at the Majestic) start with a familiar-sounding musical prompt and then take off into the stratosphere.

Dancer/choreographer **RASHAUN MITCHELL** and poet **ANNE CARSON** weren't improvising so much as listening to each other and having a subliminal conversation. Presented in July by the ICA and Summer Stages, their two pieces *Nox* and *Bracko* turned the ICA theater and its majestic harbor view into a setting for mystery and meditation.

Jacob's Pillow programmed an evening by the gifted young New York choreographer **MONICA BILL BARNES**. Building movement from everyday torments and embarrassments, Barnes makes funny and surprising dances of the absurd populated by sympathetic characters who get through it all with heads held high.

Early in December, the Boston dance community lost a cherished supporter and senior performer, **BETTY MILHENDLER**. Having studied with modern dance teachers in New York, Milhendler went on to a teaching career at Boston University School of Social Work. Only after her retirement, in 1983, did she take up serious performing. She toured with the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane company in *Last Supper at Uncle Tom's Cabin/The Promised Land* and appeared with local choreographers. In 2004, she helped found Prometheus Elders Ensemble, and she was an enthusiastic Boston dancegoer despite her last long struggle with cancer. Milhendler was 87 when she died.

THE YEAR IN PICTURES: SEE THE ART YOU MISSED AT THEPHOENIX.COM/INPICTURES

YEAR IN REVIEW

Art

BIG AND SMALL

ART – AND ART SPACES – OF ALL SIZES

BY GREG COOK

Following a couple of years of gallery closings, 2010 was a growth year for the Boston art scene. As 2009 ended, curator Jen Mergel was leaving the Institute of Contemporary Art to become the contemporary-art curator at the Museum of Fine Arts. The ICA kicked off 2010 by announcing that it had hired Helen Molesworth away from Harvard to be its new head curator. In September, the Addison Gallery of American Art at Phillips Academy reopened after a renovation. In November, the MFA opened its giant new Art of the Americas Wing. Which is all just preface to our annual rundown of the best art of 2010.

SPACE ODDITY

Randy Regier was the star of the "2010 DeCordova Biennial," with his "lifesize" spacecraft, spacesuit, and ephemera that combined boyish wonder with questions about how 1950s American Dreams had devolved into today's dreary reality. For the biennial, moreover, curator Dina Deitsch rebooted the DeCordova Sculpture Park + Museum's regular local-talent search with a vital selection of familiar faces (Otto Piene, Paul Laffoley) and emerging artists, demonstrating that local round-ups don't need to be stuffy or square. Regier followed up with an installation at Wentworth Institute of Technology that looked like a '60s living room with a lamp tumbled over and an electric "shocking" robot singeing the carpet. Something had gone horribly awry. Using his unique craftsmanship to suggest pulpy, poignant tales, the Portland sculptor demonstrated once again why he is one of the best artists in the country.

OLD MASTERS

The Peabody Essex Museum scored two major curatorial coups this year. In "The Emperor's Private Paradise," curator Nancy Berliner put on public view for the first time 90 treasures commissioned by an 18th-century Chinese emperor for his private Forbidden City retreat. In "Fiery Pool," Brown University professor Stephen Houston and PEM curator Daniel Finamore assembled 90 Maya artifacts that tapped recent scholarship to argue the hitherto unrecognized centrality of the sea to ancient Yucatán Peninsula civilization. The only other institution in the region that borrows on this level is the Museum of Fine Arts, as it did for its 2009 "Titian, Tintoretto, Veronese" show. But beginning with its landmark Joseph Cornell retrospective in 2007, the Salem museum has made the getting of major loans a habit.

SEXCAPADES

Washington Street in Boston, between Stuart Street and Downtown Crossing, was long the city's officially sanctioned area for adult bookstores, clubs, and movie houses — as well as not-so-sanctioned prostitution. It was mostly cleaned up in the 1990s, but this year Howard Yezerski Gallery revisited our sordid past in its exhibit "The Combat Zone: 1969–1978." Gritty vintage photos by Roswell Angier of Cambridge, Jerry Berndt of Paris, and John Goodman of Wellesley documented the strip clubs, hookers, and sketchy street denizens. The show was a model of local history and local art (plus sex) that our museums could learn from. Nicest curatorial touch: in the gallery's window hung the blinking neon sign from the Naked I strip club, which was demolished in 1996.

PARK RANGER

In a notch in a three-story-tall cliff in Boston's Franklin Park, Brandon Nastanski erected his officially unapproved hermit hut. Dubbed the Unofficial Franklin Park Research Outpost, it was a sort of ramshackle clubhouse built from sticks and junk the Jamaica Plain artist had scavenged from the park — but it was also a haunted witch shack, a voodoo shrine, and a meditative homage to Thoreau's Walden cabin. In other words, the kind of surprise you might happen upon or hear about and never find — a brand new legend.

THINKING SMALL

Perhaps what you noticed first about Charles LeDray's 25-year survey "workworkworkworkwork" — which was organized by Randi Hopkins at the Institute of Contemporary Art — was that the New York artist had managed to fill half the museum's galleries with doll-sized clothes. But his marvelously hand-tailored Lilliputian ensembles asked big, soulful, heartbreaking questions about whether men can still be protectors, fixers, and providers in Great Recession America. The ICA followed this up with another hit: the Wexner Center for the Arts' 10-year survey of the giant, brooding, urban-archæology collages of Los Angeles artist and MacArthur "genius" grant winner Mark Bradford.

TIDAL WAVE

Deb Todd Wheeler's exhibit "Blew" at Miller Block Gallery was full of magical special effects, but her masterpiece was the 11-foot-wide photographic image *High Sea*, which looked like an angry rogue wave thundering across a blue-black sea. In fact, it was an image of several temporary sculptures — blue plastic bags that the Newton artist had rippled atop her computer's scanner. Which made it also a commentary about global pollution and its karma.

SCOTT M. LACY

BOUNTY The new Art of the Americas Wing increased the MFA's size by 28 percent and played to the museum's strengths.

JOLLY GREEN GIANT

Although he's best known as the creator of *Shrek!*, "William Steig: Love & Laughter" at the Norman Rockwell Museum demonstrated the range of this artist's brilliance via more than 200 works from the 1950s to 2001. The late Boston kids'-book creator and *New Yorker* cartoonist took inspirations from Picasso, Freudian psychology, children's drawings, and fairy-tale fantasy and combined them with his own curmudgeonly humanism and talent for drawing funny to create one of the great 20th-century meditations on our everyday victories and stumbles.

AMERIKAZ MOST WANTED

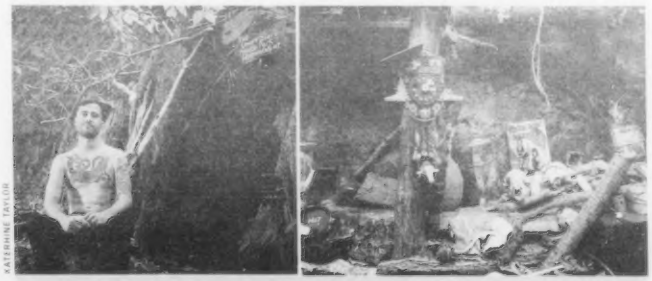
Organized by the Brooklyn Museum of Art, "Selections from 'Who Shot Rock & Roll' " at the Worcester Art Museum was a massive, glitzy survey of pop-music photos from Elvis to Tupac, with an emphasis on the baby-boomer '60s and '70s. Its best moments were records of change, as when Jimi Hendrix transformed from Wilson Pickett's background guitarist in a 1966 shot into the rock god photographed at the Monterey Pop Festival the following year setting his guitar on fire.

QUICK-CHANGE ARTIST

In his "Other People's Clothes" series, Caleb Cole adopts other personalities as if he'd dropped into their lives *Quantum Leap*-style. For his photographs in the "Artadia Boston" exhibit at the Boston Center for the Arts, the Somerville artist assembled costumes (big glasses, flowered housecoats, cardigans) and scoured locations to channel lives of quiet desperation: a stooped old woman squinting in her backyard, a bewildered man on a sidewalk bench scratching a lottery ticket. The exhibit's round-up of local Artadia grant winners also included more of Somerville artist Raúl González's pointed folksy, cartoony Injun drawings, which made my "Best of 2009" list when they debuted that year.

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

The biggest art news in the region this year was the Museum of Fine Arts' opening of its new Norman Foster-designed Art of the Americas Wing in November. The project, which increased the museum's size by 28 percent, was the brainchild of MFA director Malcolm Rogers, and it cements his legacy. The architecture is dully sufficient, but the art in the new galleries, as overseen by Art of the Americas department chair Elliot Bostwick Davis, showcases the MFA's strengths: ravishing Maya burial urns, Colonial New England art, Revolutionary-era Boston portraiture, 19th-century landscapes, John Singer Sargent. And Mr. Rogers isn't done yet: next September, the MFA is scheduled to open its renovated Linde Family Wing, which promises to offer more space for contemporary art than the ICA does.



KATERINE TAYLOR

LEGENDARY Brandon Nastanski's officially unapproved hermit hut in Franklin Park was a revelatory public-art installation.

Read Greg Cook's blog at gregcookland.com/journal.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Books

DADDY'S GIRL Lindsay Hunter makes drunk teenagers dry-humping in Cheeto dust compelling literary fare.

READER'S GUIDE

WRITERS WHO SHOWED THE WAY

_COMPILED BY JON GARELICK

Here, listed alphabetically by author, are 10 notable books that the Phoenix wrote about in 2010.

JOHN ASHBERY
PLANISPHERE
Ecco

Released at the end of 2009, this plump volume of 99 alphabetically ordered poems demonstrated that, at 81, John Ashbery was still going strong. So accepted is Ashbery's post at the top of the contemporary American poetry heap that the question of just how to read him seems doomed to languish beside the point. To fans, and a generation of imitators, interpretive guidelines run the gamut, from appreciating his language as one might music to gazing into it as one would the night sky — perhaps with a planisphere for bearings. The flattened, impossibly charted universe accorded by that title object makes a fitting emblem for these poems, as often his most carefully controlled coordinates offer little more than beautiful uncertainty.

JOHN BANVILLE
THE INFINITIES
Alfred A. Knopf

The main character's name is Adam, as is his son's. Adam II has come to his dying father's bedside, along with his sister, his stepmother, and his wife, who's named — not for nothing — Helen. The gods are also there (they're everywhere), with Hermes spreading tender mercies and Zeus hurling thunderous orgasms. Booker Prize winner Banville's latest is mysterious, warm-hearted, and elegant, with traces of such literary gods as Vladimir Nabokov and fellow Irishman Oscar Wilde. What he shares with those two, along with an ability to write great prose, is a sense of mischief — here grown to cosmic proportions with his playful attempt to grasp not only infinity but also an infinite number of infinities.

JOHN BRANDON
CITRUS COUNTY
McSweeney's

Despite their prevalence in contemporary cinema, pubescent creeps are conspicuously absent from the current crop of US literary fiction. That could explain, in part, why the first printing of *Citrus County* sold out almost immediately. The novel follows two 13-year-olds with anti-social tendencies, and a synopsis reads like a TV *Guide* description of a Lifetime movie: orphan neglected by crazy uncle kidnaps little girl. The greatest of the novel's many feats is its ability to make this plot seem plausible — almost inevitable. Brandon's writing is at once sweet and completely unsentimental, the landscape of Citrus County being as oppressive as the solipsism of adolescence. In this urgent, contemporary exploration of free will, Brandon trades once vogue-ish apathy for bruised idealism.

GAIL CALDWELL
LET'S TAKE THE LONG WAY HOME
Random House

Before she died of lung cancer — in 2002, at age 42 — Caroline Knapp had gone bestseller with the most private of torments: her alcoholism (in *Drinking: A Love Story*) and her anorexia (*Appetites: Why Women Want*), and in the *Phoenix* she had created Alice K., her neurotic-insomniac alter ego. In real life, Knapp was restrained and somewhat elusive. One person who got a protracted, full-on look at her was former *Boston Globe* book critic (and also former *Phoenix* writer) Gail Caldwell. Here Caldwell writes movingly about their friendship, how they bonded as fellow dog lovers, as accomplished professional women nagged by self-doubt, as recovering alcoholics. Like Caldwell's previous memoir, *A Strong West Wind*, this one is notable for its gorgeous language and lack of spectacle, it generosity and warmth, and its precise expression of friendship.

TANA FRENCH
FAITHFUL PLACE
Random House

In this, her third novel, Irish writer Tana French pulls together the impressive strands of her talent: her feel for character and setting, her eloquent prose, and her mystery writer's sense of plotting. The setting is Faithful Place, one of working-class Dublin's more depressed byways. The central character is Frank Mackey, who left when he was 19 and has now returned as an undercover cop. French's ear can catch character and place in a line: "My da started off as a plasterer, but by the time we came along he was a full-time drinker with a part-time sideline in things that had fallen off the backs of lorries." It's part of a book that's both compelling mystery and moving family saga.

LINDSAY HUNTER
DADDY'S
Featherproof Books

Hunter makes drunk teenagers dry-humping in Cheeto dust compelling literary fare. *Daddy's*, her debut collection of short stories, follows a trove of confused young people through frightening parking lots and crappy apartments. Those who miss explicit sex in contemporary literature, take heart: Hunter writes about it, and frequently. Her approach channels both Mary Gaitskill and John Waters: it's desperate, depraved, and thrillingly transgressive.

DON LATTIN
THE HARVARD PSYCHEDELIC CLUB: HOW TIMOTHY LEARY, RAM DASS, HUSTON SMITH, AND ANDREW WEIL KILLED THE FIFTIES AND USHERED IN A NEW AGE FOR AMERICA
HarperOne

San Francisco religion reporter Lattin traveled cross-continent to talk with the characters who famously ushered hallucinogens into pop-culture consciousness: Baba Ram Dass (the former Harvard psychology professor Richard Alpert), former MIT professor and religion scholar Huston Smith, and alternative-medicine guru (and former Harvard medical-school student) Andrew Weil — the last of whose campaign to undermine the others and end the Harvard-funded party is detailed for the first time in this book. The "club" formed by these three men and Harvard research psychologist Timothy Leary launched what would become the counterculture movement. Not only does Lattin vividly evoke the times, he also shows how these early LSD experimenters (and proselytizers) shaped our world.

KEITH RICHARDS (WITH JAMES FOX)
LIFE
Little, Brown

The title says it all: *Life* isn't just an autobiography, it's Keith Richards's Guide To Good Living. In this hefty but breezy memoir, the skull-bedecked guitar hero spills the beans on nearly a half-century of music and mischief making with (and without) the Rolling Stones. He also imparts typically Richardsian (which is to say, earthy, honest, and wickedly funny) wisdom concerning such diverse subjects as the Boy Scouts (he was a decorated member), knife fighting, the correct way to prepare bangers and mash, and how to assemble a set of works when you can't get your hands on a hypodermic needle.

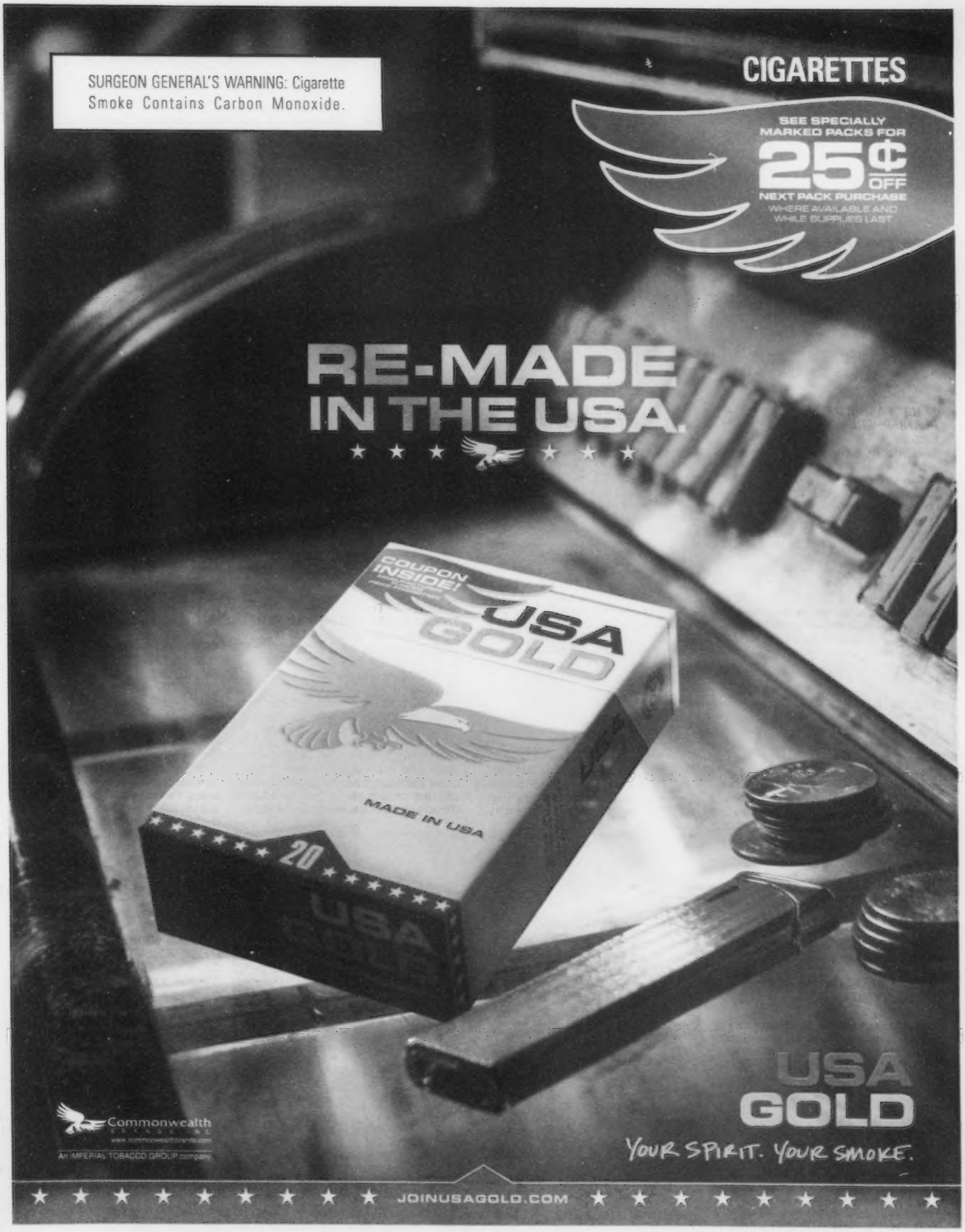
JAMES M. TABOR
BLIND DESCENT: THE QUEST TO DISCOVER THE DEEPEST PLACE ON EARTH
Random House

For most sane people, caving is an inexplicable pastime. What, after all, is the appeal of claustrophobic crawls, frigid swims, extreme heights (even underground), oceans of insects, no toilets, and ever-present, absolute darkness? Tabor follows two men for whom caving is an obsession — American Bill Stone and Ukrainian Alexander Kimchouk — and their "race" to find "the deepest place on earth." That unofficial competition, however, is an almost unnecessary narrative device. What matters here is Tabor's reporting and descriptions that are lean and dense with detail as he conveys the unimaginable weight of the effort and risk — "the kiss of depth" — entailed in each man's quest.

DAVID YOUNG
FIELD OF LIGHT AND SHADOW: SELECTED AND NEW POEMS
Alfred A. Knopf

Quoting David Young in a short space doesn't work. Yes, there are fine lines in his poetry — and entire quotable passages. But he's a poet of sequences, and neither lines nor passages demonstrate how his poems develop, their breadth (even in relatively short poems), and the twists and turns, the journeys, they take. An accomplished translator of poetry from the Chinese, Young has in his own work no grand design but a series of small designs, prolongations of form and feeling that allow him to pursue various literary subjects — from Bashô to Henry Vaughan — and the vagaries of life as he has experienced them. (One of his most beautiful sequences is an elegy for his wife.) For Young, it has been not just the journey but hundreds of different destinations. ⊙

O WISE MAN! Keith Richards has, astonishingly, lived to tell – and tell it well.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YEAR IN REVIEW

National Pop

ALBUMS OF THE YEAR: LISTEN TO OUR CRITICS' TOP 10 LISTS AT THEPHOENIX.COM/ONTHEDOWNLOAD OR FOLLOW @BOSTONMUSICBLOG ON TWITTER

DAYDREAM NATION

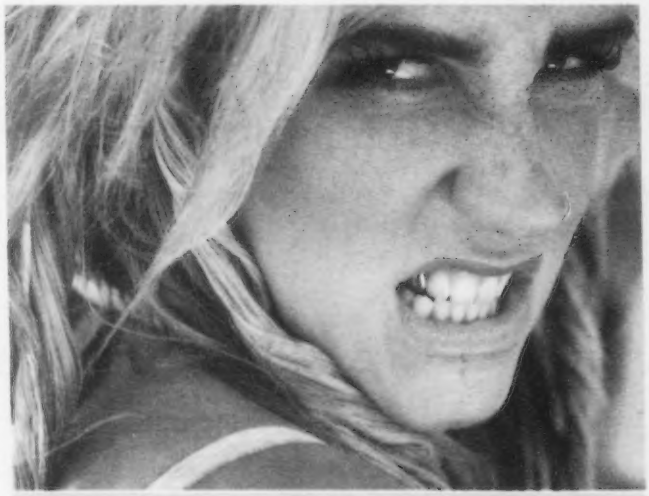
A SCHIZOPHRENIC YEAR OF ROCK AND POP

_BY DANIEL BROCKMAN

Music may exist to express emotions, dreams, and nightmares, but beyond its loftier aims, it's a means of escape. Whether you're slamming your hands on the steering wheel to a rock jam or bumping trunk junk on a dance floor (real or imagined), the best music is supposed to take you away, for at least a few minutes. What with the clusterfuck that was Americans' waking life *circa* 2010, this year's primo releases seemed more interested than ever in getting us the hell out of reality, pronto. Of course, maybe music's departure from reality has to do with reality's departure from reality: if we live in a country where the culture of grassroots activism has been hijacked by the billionaire-funded far right, and television shows nothing but programs on how to run a cake shop, how mind-blowing is it if a rapper goes Joy Division on our ass, or some 20-year-old girl in a meat dress does a duet with Sir Elton John? Not only is weird normal, but bizarre is now pop with a capital P.

No one in music combined weird with pop in 2010 like the ubiquitous **KANYE WEST**. On a damage-control mission after his disastrous flame-out last year, 'Ye escaped to his Hawaii studio, shuttling in a fleet of guest stars in a mad vision quest that resulted in the year's most interesting album, *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy* (Def Jam). An epic meditation on the consequences of being a celebrity asshole and not caring (though caring enough to make a whole album about it), *Fantasy* is the distillation of the mainstream-rap-album ideal: a song cycle of specific personal issues that are in no way universal enough to be shared by the enormous audience paying attention, all parlayed into crucial musical drama via groundbreaking beats, catchy hooks, and gloriously foot-in-mouth lyrical *bons mots*.

Numerous other albums tried to hit the same sweet spot between shameless braggadocio and teen-diary emotional vulnerability. **DRAKE**'s massively popular debut, *Thank Me Later*, is the most defensive album ever released by a major label, with the unibrowed *Degrassi High* grad taking up *beaucoup* lyrical space kvetching about the perils of fame and the burdens of being well known. This year also marked the return to ubiquity of **EMINEM**, who some 10-plus years ago created the whole business of elevating an ambivalence toward fame into an impenetrably defensive cult of personality. It was certainly odd all summer to hear hits from *Recovery* (Aftermath) like "Not Afraid" and the **RIHANNA** duet "Love the Way You Lie" blaring from every musical orifice imaginable, as if it were 1999, but maybe not as odd as being jolted from the business of the real world by Eminem's unceasing personal demons screaming in your ear.



DOLLAR THRILL Like it or not, pop irritant Ke$ha ruled 2010's party.

ALTERNATIVE The hazy and bittersweet calliope of Beach House's *Teen Dream* was typical of this year's dreamlike underground.

Metal in 2010 continued to move into uncharted realms of the unreal. The rejection of nü-metal a decade ago has spawned countless metallic subgenres that have embraced, by turns, sprawling instrumental weirdness, dizzying technical prowess, fastidious adherence to any of a multitude of pre-nü-'90s genre conventions, and an overwhelming desire for chaotic expansion.

But this year was more stylistically inchoate than ever, with a zillion strong acts running leaderless and wild. Whether one invested time in the glacial patience testing of **AGALLOCH**'s epic *Marrow of the Spirit* (Profound Lore), the twin-drum widescreen psychedelia of **KYLESA**'s *Spiral Shadow* (Season of Mist), **HOLY GRAIL**'s shreddingly NWOBHM-tastic *Crisis in Utopia* (Prosthetic), or **NACHTMYSTIUM**'s masterpiece of kvlt-gloom-gone-New-Order-melancholia, *Addicts: Black Meddle Pt. II* (Century Media), there were all too many ways to spend one's metal bucks without ever finding the one big act that was going to unify a stadium of headbangers.

Underground music in 2010 moved in a direction that was decidedly dreamlike and shapeless. If in years past we saw a proliferation of bands making sharp guitar noises backed by brittle and busy beats, more recent trends have steered clear of pointy edges and distinct lines. Witness the hazy and bittersweet calliope of **BEACH HOUSE**'s *Teen Dream* (Sub Pop), the deep layers of gauze wrapped around your ears by **ZOLA JESUS**'s *Stridulum* (101 Distribution), and the rhythmic, pulse-surfing supernova of **GLASSER**'s *Ring* (True Panther Sounds).

And those are just the more conventional dream-poppers. For the real outer reaches of the musical fugue state, you need look no farther than the dark recesses of **SALEM**'s *King Night* (IAMSOUND), an engrossing musical experience that takes the mesmeric siren call of synthy goth and marries it to a druggy soft-focus vocal approach and a pummeling crunk backbeat that shouldn't work but does, if only through its own naive bravado. Similar excursions on homonymous EPs by **oOoOO** (on Triangle) and **†††** (pronounced "Ritualzzz," on Babylon Dogs) — outfits often lumped in with Salem as "witch house" — yield ominously ephemeral results. These three bands showed that in 2010 it was possible to make faceless computer-assisted music that's transporting, mind-bogglingly weird, and yet utterly moving.

Reality avoidance was not the sole domain of bizarro subgenres. Both the biggest of commercial acts and the lowliest of underground acts, for the most part, ignored the concerns of the real world. We are in the midst of unending war, with climate change, escalating poverty, and growing economic disparity; political groups on both the left and the right marched on Washington. So where were the political anthems of 2010? Certainly not in **TAYLOR SWIFT**'s awkward teenage "Dear John" kiss-off. Or **KATY PERRY**'s "California Gurls" popsicle-melting summer diversion. Neither were they to be found in the outer-space weirdness of **NICKI MINAJ** or the, uh, outer-space weirdness of **JANELLE MONÁE**. For all their critically lauded multiple-personality precociousness, there was little socio-political conviction in either of the respectable debuts from these two.

In fact, you had to look hard to find the social critics of the pop world. Sure, you had **M.I.A.** throwing audio pipe bombs with the deliciously vicious *Maya* (XL Interscope), coaxing out anti-complacency odes that mixed her usual international swing swag with caustic power-drill rhythm sections. But the real musical subversive of 2010, hiding in plain sight, was unavoidable pop irritant **KE$HA**.

Seen by most who get paid to spout about such things as either a useless tweeny diva or, worse, a trashy example of Everything That's Wrong With Modern Culture, Ke$ha is in reality a ruthlessly calculating change agent, communicating to the young and the young at heart that being poor and trashy is not only acceptable but a perfectly respectable way to maintain some dignity in this age of conspicuous wastefulness. Where other divas brag of bling and rings, Ms. K., with whiskey in her water bottle, gets her posse together to party in thrift mode at the rich kid's house. Armed with a flaskful of top-notch Dr. Luke bangers, her two albums this year (January's *Animal* and November's *Cannibal*, both RCA) draw an us-vs.-them line in the sand that retains its integrity amid the sleaze.

"Tik Tok," 2010's top-selling top-charting single, took a swig of Jack for courage and blew a fireball of class-warfare 'tude that translated effortlessly into the language of pure pop. Screw the rich, be yourself, fall in love, have some dignity, be who you want to be — these are the sorts of fantasy platitudes that *(a)* we as Americans have been pumping ourselves full of since time immemorial and *(b)* our entire rock-and-roll lexicon has been built on for the past 60-plus years. If you walked into 2010 praying that **LADY GAGA** would be the last word on crazily ambitious mid-20s chicks rewriting the pop/rock playbook, #1 hit by #1 hit, here's hoping that 2011 will be just as disappointing for you.

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YEAR IN REVIEW

Local Pop

10 STANDOUT LOCAL RELEASES

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1. Dom, *Sun Bronzed Greek Gods* [Burning Mill]
2. Viva Viva, *Viva Viva* [Fort Point Recordings]
3. Mystery Roar, *Mystery Roar* [Dopamine]
4. 28 Degrees Taurus, *All The Stars In Your Eyes* [self-released]
5. Girlfriends, *Gov't Seizure* [Aurora 7]
6. Night Fruit, *Triangles* [self-released]
7. Young Adults, *Black Hole* [AMDISCS]
8. Kingsley Flood, *Dust Windows* [self-released]
9. Spirit Kid, *Spirit Kid* [self-released]
10. Do Not Forsake Me Oh My Darling, *The New Number 2* [self-released]

LOCALS ARE SCENE AND HEARD IN 2010

THE YEAR IN BOSTON ROCK AND POP

BY MICHAEL MAROTTA

In a year where the only party anthem we could all agree on was Auto-Tune the News' "Bed Intruder" remix, it's no wonder Boston turned inward to reconnect with its native rock scene. Through a newfound appreciation of our live venues and the bands who fill them seven nights a week, as well as the outpouring of feeling brought on by the death of local icon Billy Ruane, 2010 brought out the pride in our city's thriving scene. Here are the highlights of a fantastic, if emotionally draining, 2010 in Boston rock and pop.

JANUARY

Six days into the New Year, the biggest band to come out of Boston since the Pixies, Passion Pit, hold court at the House of Blues. But the local openers are a sign of the year to come: dance-pop kids Yes Giantess are about to release bombastic single "The Ruins," and savvy indie co-eds Dirty Dishes fine-tune in basements and clubs, priming themselves for a breakout 2011. Weeks later at T.T. the Bear's, Spirit Kid's homonymous retro-modern jangle-pop debut shows off Emeen Z's songwriting class, and Bad Rabbits circulate their *Stick Up Kids EP* for free online, as they prepare for a 2010 local takeover that's bound to go national in the coming year.

FEBRUARY

Boston already has plenty of indie, electro, and hip-hop weeklies, but on February 4, it gets an underground metal night courtesy of Zack Wells's Born of Fire. The inaugural party at O'Brien's features live shots by scene stalwarts Motherboar and Phantom Glue; revolving weeknights remain permanently corrugated. Socked in the middle of the month, the week-long, citywide Together festival gives Boston an electronic-music destination event, welcoming internationals like Sinden and Dirty Bird while showcasing local aces Hot Pink Delorean, Die Young, and Shuttle.

MARCH

That eerie quiet in mid March is the sound of half the scene blowing down to Austin's SxSW, where Bad Rabbits, Yes Giantess, Magic Magic, Truman Peyote, and dozens more wow the national media. Back home, the former Roxy reopens as 775-capacity Royale; a month later, it'll kick into high gear as the Boston home of New York's Bowery Ballroom booking agency. If the global popularity of Brookline-born Eli "Paperboy" Reed was in question, his fiery appearance on Spain's version of *Dancing with the Stars* silences the doubters two months before his major-label release, *Come and Get It* (Capitol).

WORMTOWN (HADLEY?) ROCK Dom's "Living in America" owned 2010.

APRIL

The biggest band out of Boston in 2010 turns out to be from Worcester — or Hadley, to be exact. In April, Dom and debut EP *Sun Bronzed Greek Gods* explode nationally on the strength of ferocious neon rock-pop single and song-of-the-year contender "Living in America." If MGMT had released it, they'd still be famous. But there's also plenty within the I-95 belt that gets Boston moving: Kingsley Flood take their Americana-roots sound to NPR audiences, electro-funk machine Mystery Roar go from *zero to sexy*, and the edgy rock of Do Not Forsake Me Oh My Darling proves more than just a flyer maker's nightmare.

MAY

Lansdowne Street rediscovers local rock with the House of Blues' free front-room series. A May Day debut brings Bearstronaut, Earthquake Party, and DJ Die Young; future performers include Drug Rug and Quilt. Live local music surges onward: the Milky Way books Audrey Ryan and Sleepy Very Sleepy to provide the Jamaica Plain joint its first live amplified chords after its relocation to the Brewery Complex.

JUNE

Following in the Dresden Dolls' footsteps, the steampunk theater of Walter Sickert & the Army of Broken Toys' *SteamShipKillers* both pleases and enchants at Café 939. Harder-rocking young 'uns RIBS release *British Brains*, poising themselves for breakout status in 2011. Drunk-gaze trio 28 Degrees Taurus launch a summer of psych worship with the drop of another washed-out ambient-rock album, *All the Stars in Your Eyes*. And in less celebrated news — but important to touring acts — O'Brien's Pub in Allston finally gets a proper sign, months after renovation.

JULY

Garage trio Girlfriends kick off July with the gripping *Gov't Seizure* seven-inch, then set off on a 44-gig tour across the country. After the release of that record, thousands more get yanked off brick-and-mortar shelves as Twisted Village in Harvard Square closes shop on July 25. Owners Kate Biggar and Wayne Rogers shift to mail order and a focus on their band, Major Stars. The Paradise Rock Club closes for summer renovations, to reopen in September with a relocated stage (better pole position!) and legal capacity that will climb toward 999.

AUGUST

Turn-of-the-century indie trio the Sheila Divine reunite by generating more than $5000 for a new album through Kickstarter. The total fan contribution hits $13,000, and new material emerges. Psych trio Night Fruit drop a handful of demos as the *Triangles* EP, a fresh collection of magnetically ambient-rock tunes lifted by the hypnotic drone of Amanda Dellevigne. It's now the summer of psych, as Jinsen Liu (28 Degrees Taurus) relaunches the Deep Heaven Now festival, with dozens of locals — Doomstar, Static of the Gods, MMOSS — getting together over two noisy stages at P.A.'s Lounge and Precinct in Somerville.

SEPTEMBER

The glossy new Paradise opens, but as students flock to Boston, Aloud hit the road. Using Kickstarter to record *Exile*, the newlywed couple of Jen de la Osa and Henry Beguiristain celebrate at Church, then hawk their possessions for tour money. As of press time, they remain on the road in Arkansas. Those who celebrate another 2010 marriage — one of rock and dance — are rewarded as club scene leaders Mystery Roar and Bodega Girls team up on September 24 with a host of DJs at the Middle East downstairs. No divorce is in sight.

OCTOBER

After 16 years, the Midway Café in JP finally gets permission to expand capacity to 99. Neo-psych vets Viva Viva need a fraction of that time to establish themselves as Boston's best live act, but their long-awaited homonymous debut off Fort Point Recordings proves their hook-laden worth in the studio. On October 26, Boston rock fixture Billy Ruane dies, unifying a scene and bringing together separate generations; the outpouring of support has a national reach. After a gloomy run, Harpers Ferry ends 40 years of live music on Halloween night; it's set to reopen in January as the Don Law–led Brighton Music Hall.

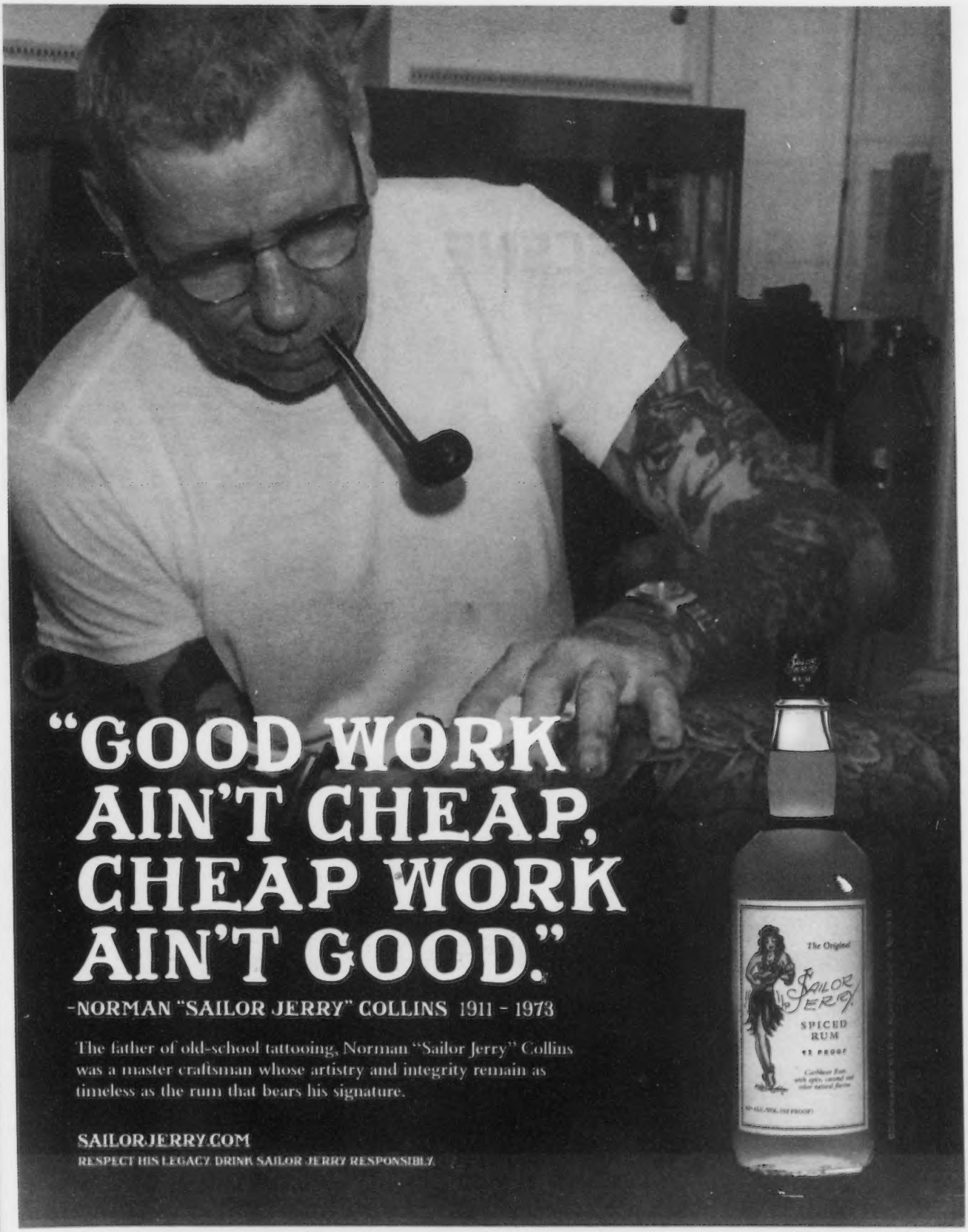
NOVEMBER

The pall of Ruane's death extends into November: Evan Dando and Juliana Hatfield dedicate the Real Kids' "Common at Noon" to him during two shows at Great Scott. Days later, Young Adults emerge as the new faces of Allston punk, their November 6 *Black Hole* 12-inch release party representing a changing of the guard. On November 17, the epic, multi-room Billy Ruane Memorial Party in Central Square is a prolonged live celebration of the man himself and bands he cherished, from new (Lady Lamb the Beekeeper) to old (Buffalo Tom). It ends with his cremated ashes being tossed into the Middle East crowd; his urn will forever rest at the Cambridge club.

DECEMBER

Prom Night for the city's music scene is disguised as the 2010 Boston Music Awards, as the Liberty Hotel hosts a drunken celebration for standouts Dom, Amanda Palmer, Peter Wolf, and anyone who can get an elevator in less than 15 minutes. Days later, word spreads that All Asia Café in Cambridge will close in 2011, making room for MIT facilities. Manager Marc Shulman vows a new space.

Michael Marotta counts down the year's best local tracks this Sunday at 8 pm on WFNX 101.7 FM's "Boston Accents."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YEAR IN REVIEW

Jazz

SWEET HOME CHICAGO Mike Reed's People, Places & Things completed a trilogy about the Windy City.

TEN LONG-PLAYERS

JAZZ THAT LINGERS FROM 2010

BY JON GARELICK

Here, in no particular order, are some of my favorite things from among the people, CDs, and concerts I wrote about this year.

DARCY JAMES ARGUE'S SECRET SOCIETY

Argue and his Society's *Infernal Machines* (New Amsterdam) made year-end lists in 2009, but this extraordinary big band — based in New York — didn't get to Boston for a live show until a Regattabar gig in February. For the first wave of press, Argue sold the band as steampunk, drawing on the idea that big bands themselves are an anachronism in 2010 and that he's using acoustic instruments to impersonate electronic studio effects like digital delay, filter sweeps, and phase shifting. If you weren't cued in to those references, you might just respond to the swirling texture of layered meters and to the sweeping harmonies and sunburst chords that are the legacy of Argue's New England Conservatory teacher Bob Brookmeyer. The band also played Newport in August.

PHIL WILSON DOES MILES AND GIL

Speaking of jazz orchestras: Berklee big-band sage Phil Wilson conjured one of Argue's progenitors when he gathered a group of faculty and students to perform Gil Evans's landmark 1958 arrangement for Miles Davis of the Gershwins' *Porgy and Bess*. A complex suite for 19-piece band (including tuba and three French horns), it doesn't get played live often. But here it was, from the first blasts of "Buzzard Song": the many layers of Evans's conception, where low brass could conjure a chorus of double basses or fill out beguiling harmonies behind the soloists. Trumpeter and singer Christine Fawson (of the group Syncopation) brought the idea to Wilson after performing the piece at a concert in Mexico. Here she was joined by Miles Evans (son of Gil) for the trumpet solos and also sang the opening "I Loves You Porgy." But the piece was the star.

TAYLOR EIGSTI

At Scullers in July, he showed why he's a young star in the making: he has the chops and the imagination to cover a broad range of material — from Ellington and Mussorgsky to Coldplay and Mutemath — and an inventive flair as a composer. As a pianist, he doesn't seem to have a weak finger. His guest that night was singer-songwriter Becca Stevens. Together, and with a line-up that included the great drummer Kendrick Scott, they previewed his September release, *Daylight at Midnight* (Concord), which claims the likes of Chris Martin, Feist, Nick Drake, and Elliott Smith for the book of contemporary jazz standards. And "Midnight Afternoon" is a promising start to an Eigsti-Stevens songwriting partnership. Here's hoping they come back in 2011.

FLYING Esperanza Spalding tried a new direction — and her audience went with her.

RON GILL/JOHN STEIN

Singer Gill and guitarist Stein have been long-time teammates, and on *Turn Up the Quiet* (Whaling City Sounds), they show each other at their best. The only other musician on the CD is pianist Gilad Barkan (playing beautifully), and the scaled-back setting gives Gill's warm, conversational directness a chance to shine. An April show at Scullers was meant to showcase both *Turn Up the Quiet* and Stein's equally fine *Raising the Roof* (also on Whaling City) but Gill — a one-time fixture on the Boston scene as a musician and WGBH jazz announcer, now living in North Carolina — was felled by illness, and Stein's band went on alone. With any luck, Gill and Stein will perform together again in Boston in 2011.

ESPERANZA SPALDING

After her pop-leaning major-label debut, this year's *Chamber Music Society* (Heads Up) was supposed to be bassist/vocalist/composer Spalding's "difficult" album. Yet despite its contrapuntal writing for voice and string quartet, it's no more inaccessible than 2008's *Esperanza* was callow. And like that first album, it has traction: Jobim's "Inútil Paisagem" (for just bass and the vocals of Spalding and Gretchen Parlato), an ardent take on Dimitri Tiomkin & Ned Washington's "Wild Is the Wind," her own setting of William Blake's "Little Fly," and exploratory originals like "Knowledge of Good and Evil" all reward multiple listens. A sold-out Sanders Theatre concert in October proved that Spalding's audience is willing to move along with her.

IDEAL BREAD

It shouldn't be a secret after all these years that one way to get my attention is to cover Steve Lacy. The composer and soprano-saxophonist was a master of thorny, witty, passionate compositions that distilled the music of life-long inspiration Thelonious Monk and the many poets he loved. The quartet Ideal Bread play the music of Lacy exclusively. In place of Lacy's soprano, we have bandleader and former Lacy student Josh Sinton's baritone, and he's joined by trumpeter Kurt Knuffke, bassist Reuben Radding, and drummer Tomas Fujiwara. On their second CD, *Transmit* (Cuneiform), they showed that Lacy — like all the great jazz composers — can be a source of individual expression.

MIKE REED

Reed's *Stories & Negotiations* (482 Music), with his project People, Places & Things, concluded a trilogy dedicated to their home town of Chicago in which the band juxtaposed their own tunes with repertoire of progressive hard bop that flourished in that city between roughly 1954 and 1960. For this album, they brought in some of the players from that era: 75-year-old trombonist Julian Priester, 79-year-old trumpeter/saxophonist Ira Sullivan, and 81-year-old trumpeter Art Hoyle. So they play "Urnack" — the Priester tune that he and Hoyle recorded with Sun Ra in Chicago in 1960 — as well as a handful of others that stretch everybody on the date and make the whole thing sound like the coolest of young avant-garde bands. In October, Reed brought the core quartet — saxophonists Greg Ward and Tom Haldeman and bassist Jason Roebke — to the Lily Pad.

TED ROSENTHAL

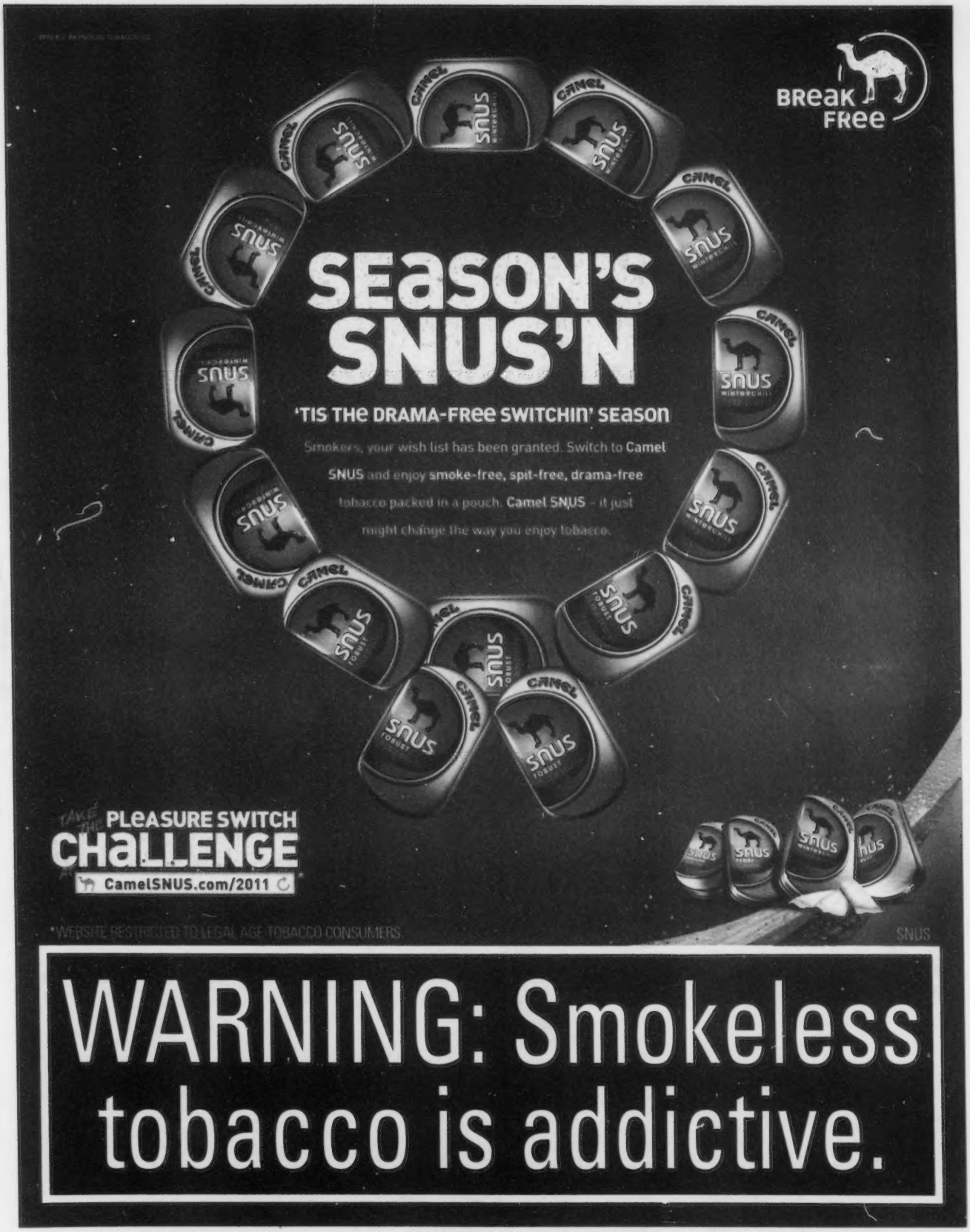
Pianist Rosenthal's *Impromptu* (Playscape) was one of the most ridiculously entertaining CDs of the year. A piano-trio record (with bassist Noriko Ueda and drummer Quincy Davis), it could easily pass for a collection of superbly well-played jazz standards — until you realize that that beautiful ballad whose words you can almost remember is Chopin's F-minor Nocturne. But *Impromptu* is more than a parlor-game blindfold test. Rosenthal has a feel for the right groove and the right streamlined arrangement to retain the musical interest of the originals by Chopin, Bach, Brahms, Mozart, Puccini, Schubert, Schumann, and Tchaikovsky while allowing his band to take flight.

BENNY SHARONI

Tenor-saxophonist Sharoni's *Eternal Elixir* (Papaya) snuck up on me like the great lost hard-bop album of 1962 — and with good reason. Here were Donald Byrd's "French Spice" and "Pentecostal Feelin' " and Blue Mitchell's "The Thing You Do." Even the *Fiddler on the Roof* chestnut "To Life" (a natural for this kibbutz-raised Israeli-American Boston resident) was inspired by the classic 1964 Cannonball Adderley recording of the score. None of which would matter a whit if we didn't have Sharoni's expressive playing, his crushed-felt tone, his feeling for boogaloos and bossa, and his own sturdy originals to round out the program.

MATT WILSON

The drummer, composer, and bandleader gave us an early holiday present, *Matt Wilson's Christmas Tree-O* (Palmetto), that could stand among some of the better horn-and-rhythm albums (with saxophonist Jeff Lederer and bassist Paul Sikivie). That and his Sunday-morning set at the Newport Jazz Festival — with a cover of Beyoncé's "If I Were a Boy," Wilson's Carl Sandburg–inspired "Bubbles," Mary LaRose singing her lyrics to Ornette Coleman's "Broken Shadows," and an auxiliary string quartet — sealed Wilson, and his generosity of spirit, in my mind as one of the great lingering memories from 2010.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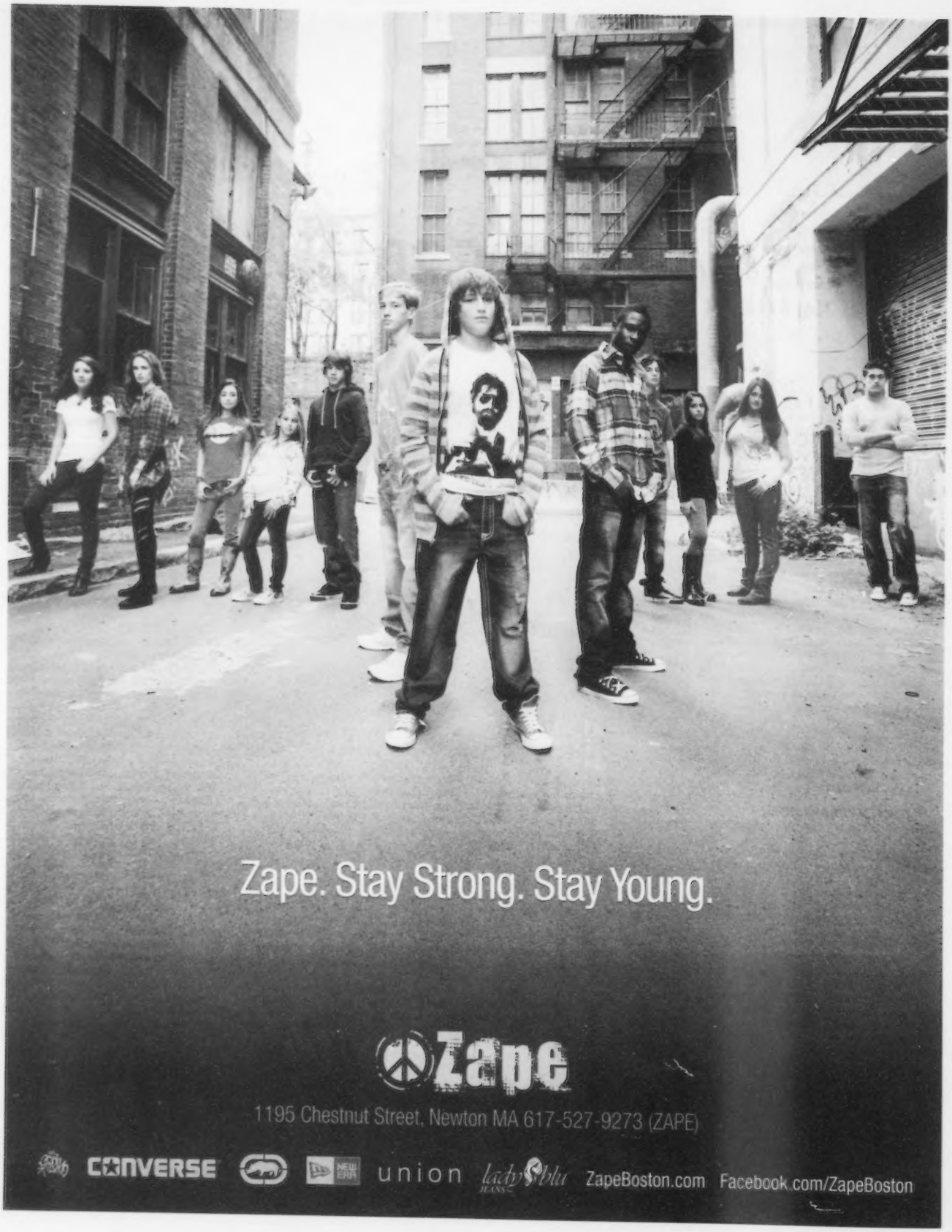
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YEAR IN REVIEW

Classical

BRAVA! Met diva Stephanie Blythe walked away with Opera Boston's delicious production of Jacques Offenbach's *La grande duchesse de Gérolstein*.

CLASSICAL MUSIC 2010

THE GOOD, THE NOT-SO-GOOD, AND THE DEPARTED

_BY LLOYD SCHWARTZ

LEVINE WATCH

The most important story in classical music last year was big news not only for what happened but for what didn't. James Levine, the music director of Boston's biggest and best-known classical-music organization, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, was out for most of the spring BSO season and for all of the Tanglewood summer season recuperating from major back surgery. There were calls for him to resign; an editorial in the *Boston Globe* questioned whether he was healthy enough to continue. But though he's still frail and walks with a cane, his performances since his return — Wagner, Mahler (a magnificent *Resurrection* Symphony), a great Schumann Symphony No. 2 (part of a BSO Schumann 200th-birthday retrospective), and the first part of a retrospective of John Harbison symphonies — have been on the highest musical level. The best grand opera in Boston this year was surely the HD theatrical telecast live from the Metropolitan Opera of Levine conducting Plácido Domingo in the title role of Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra*. The BSO released a wonderful CD set of his live Mozart symphony performances, and the Met, in honor of his 40th anniversary there, has released two huge box sets of CDs and DVDs with a small fraction of his nearly 2500 live opera performances. Boston is lucky to have him, and I hope he's around for a long time to come.

WELCOME RETURN Despite continuing health problems, James Levine rebounded this fall, with both the BSO and the Met.

CONTEMPORARY HITS

This was a great year for contemporary music. Levine and the BSO did the Harbison cycle and Elliott Carter's exquisite newly commissioned Flute Concerto (with Elizabeth Rowe); David Hoose and the Cantata Singers introduced Yehudi Wyner's major newly commissioned choral work, *Give Thanks for All Things*; and the New England Conservatory celebrated Christian Wolff and Gunther Schuller. But if I had to choose only one event, it would the final concert in the Boston Conservatory's tribute to Pierre Boulez on his 85th birthday. Eric Hewitt leading 11 of the area's most brilliant players in the first American performance of Boulez's astonishing 48-minute *Dérive 2* (last updated in 2006) would be an outstanding achievement in any year.

ONGOING DISCOVERY

The Discovery Ensemble — a chamber orchestra made up of superlative young players, many just out of school — and its gifted music director, Courtney Lewis (now assistant conductor of the Minnesota Orchestra), have been offering some of the best orchestral music heard around these parts, in imaginatively conceived programs combining classical and modern music. Their notable achievement was capped by this year's towering performance of Beethoven's *Eroica* Symphony. The group have the noble mission of going into inner-city schools and exposing the kids, most of them for the first time, to classical music. Large adult audiences are only beginning to discover Discovery Ensemble's grown-up delights.

NOT QUITE GRAND OPERA

The long overdue revival of Beethoven's *Fidelio* by Opera Boston should have been a grand opera triumph instead of the year's bitterest disappointment. But Boston Lyric Opera rang the bell with its charming mixture of the serious and the comic in Richard Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos*, which it imported from the Welsh National Opera. A strong young cast and a smart director gave us a good show. In a lighter vein, Met diva Stephanie Blythe walked away with Opera Boston's delicious production of Jacques Offenbach's *La grande duchesse de Gérolstein* as the horny aristocrat who can't stay away from military maneuvers, or keep her hands off her soldiers. And I commend OperaHub for its economical (only a piano accompaniment) but imaginative bringing to light of a real rarity: Alexander Zemlinsky's *Der Zwerg* ("The Dwarf").

MUSICAL COMEDY

Two musical comedies from the polar extremes of musical comedy got memorable revivals. American Classics — a/k/a Ben (Sears) and Brad (Connor) — brought us Irving Berlin's satirical World War I revue *Yip! Yip! Yaphank!*, the show that gave us "Oh How I Hate To Get Up in the Morning," which Berlin himself sang in the original 1918 production, and "God Bless America," which Berlin cut from the original show. And the New England Conservatory gave us a powerful production of Stephen Sondheim's bitter version of Kaufman & Hart's *Merrily We Roll Along*, a show that rolls along by moving backward in time.

PIANO FORTE

Two memorable piano recitals came from opposite ends of the age spectrum: 80-year-old Boston legend Russell Sherman's tribute to Schumann and, in the Celebrity Series, the Boston debut of Haochen Zhang, the 19-year-old Chinese pianist who was the youngest person ever to win the Van Cliburn Competition gold medal, playing Chopin, Brahms, and Ginastera, with a deeply touching Schumann encore, *Träumerei*. Not every moment worked in either concert, but what did *did*!

ETERNAL OBOE

Oboist Peggy Pearson is almost always on my list in some capacity or other, though she now has serious competition from the BSO's principal oboist, John Ferrillo. Pearson is always an outstanding "voice" in Benjamin Zander's Boston Philharmonic and the Emmanuel Music orchestra, and in her own Winsor Music chamber concerts. Her rendition of Ralph Vaughan Williams's enchanting Oboe Concerto, in the Cantata Singers' season-long exploration of that noble Brit, revealed how much music there is in a piece I'd thought was relatively slight.

ON THE WEB

Congratulations to Lee Eiseman and Bettina Norton for keeping a classical-music website, the Boston Musical Intelligencer, up and running. BMInt reviews more concerts than any other venue in town. And when WCBH bought WCRB, the website organized a town meeting at which some 400 angry listeners showed up to voice to a WCBH station manager their dismay over the removal of classical music from WCBH and the cancellation of the Friday-afternoon BSO broadcasts. It was a thoroughly commendable act of civic responsibility.

SWEET CURE

One of the most moving and beautiful concerts of 2010 came at the year's end: the Concert for the Cure, a benefit for breast-cancer research and care, organized by flutist (and cancer survivor) Julia Scolnik and conducted, in a rare Boston appearance, by Sir Simon Rattle, who with just a single rehearsal got the extraordinary (and unpaid) musicians from the BSO and an impressive array of freelancers to play with remarkable intensity, subtlety of phrasing, and long-range vision. Marc-André Hamelin was the inspired soloist in Mozart's G-major Piano Concerto. Mahler's famous Adagietto has rarely sounded so complex, gripping, and inevitable. And the Brahms Second Symphony had an equally rare freshness, nuance, and radiance.

IN MEMORIAM

The classical music world lost too many beloved figures: Marylou Speaker Churchill, the retired principal second violinist of the BSO; eloquent writer and scholar Michael Steinberg — former *Boston Globe* critic, program annotator for the BSO and San Francisco Symphony, translator, and occasional wickedly gifted narrator; Charles Anspacher, founder and conductor of the Boston Landmarks Orchestra; and Reinhold Brinckmann, wise scholar (editor of the definitive edition of Schoenberg's *Pierrot lunaire*) and former chair of the Harvard Music Department. Some visitors were especially dear to Boston: soprano Helen Boatwright (America's greatest interpreter of Charles Ives songs) and two internationally admired divas who were regular guests with Sarah Caldwell's Opera Company of Boston, Joan Sutherland and Shirley Verrett. Speaking of Caldwell: this year we also lost two great Russian poets, Andrei Voznesensky and Bella Akhmadulina, both of whom Caldwell brought to Boston in 1988 as part of her Making Music Together Festival. ⊙

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YEAR IN REVIEW
The Big Hurt

NEDERHOP THAT ROCKED

2010 IN DUTCH RAP

_BY DAVID THORPE

Once again, the xenophobic American music press has let me down. Amid all the year-end hoopla, I've seen nary a mention of 2010's most vibrant, important, and artistically relevant cultural phenomenon: the Dutch rap scene. Even my beloved *Phoenix* is guilty of — let me just go ahead and say it — *racism*: Chris Faraone's epic list of 100 hot 2010 hip-hop singles was woefully Anglophone. "It's nothing against the Dutch," Faraone told me. "It's just that they should go back to their goddamn windmills and leave the rapping to us."

The closest we came to major Dutch rap coverage was a momentary flurry of hype around Die Antwoord, the mediocre South African novelty sensation who took YouTube by storm with penis-waggling videos — and even they were buried as soon as Kanye came back and distracted us with his own penis and its accompanying album. Why is all this Dutch dopeness being ignored and suppressed? Is Kanye really the superior artist just because we can, most of the time, tell what the fuck he's saying?

I suppose it's up to me. Here are the top five Dutch rap moments of 2010. You won't find this shit anywhere else.

5_BRAINPOWER FEAT. JEAN GRAE | "MIND UR BIZNIZ" | Last year's *Mijn Manier* single — the title track from his career-spanning greatest-hits record — sounded halfway between a victory lap and a retirement. Then came an unexpected announcement: Brainpower is planning an English-language album for 2011. Could the most complex Dutch lyricist hope to compete with the tongue-twisting rhymes of native speakers? In his debut English single with Brooklyn MC Jean Grae, he makes the case for a US rhyme visa: "Livin's been changing, more nice, more heart/ More experiences, more lies, more scars/We rhyme like we had eight beers at four bars."

4_THE OPPOSITES FEAT. SEF | "CRAZY ZIN IN" | Sef was all over in '09, guesting on Dio tracks and holding it down with his own group, Flinke Namen, but he's been pretty quiet this year. He doesn't drop a verse on "Crazy Zin In," but it's great to hear his voice on the hook — and the dude from the Opposites more than makes up for it with some awesome verses. I don't know his name and I can't understand the verses, but still.

3_REVERSE, ADJE & JAYH | "FOCK WACHTEN" | This one goes hard. The beat is better than most production coming out of the US, and the opening lines, even though we obviously have no idea what they're saying in their hilarious goofball language, sound ultra boss: "Ze zeggen jawson wachten fock wacht nigga ik dacht het niet geef die mannen." And then — I'm not making this up — he namedrops both Liu Kang and Pootie Tang.

2_DE JEUGD VAN TEGENWOORDIG | "STERRENSTOF" | October ended with a new single from De Jeugd, the superstars behind "Watskeburt," the definitive jam of the '00s. "Sterrenstof," on first listen, has its ups and downs. The beat is vintage Bas Bron, but the opening verse by Wiwa is, like most of his verses, garbage. And Vieze Fur's falsetto also takes some getting used to. But then something magical happens: the horns kick in and the Beatle-quoting interlude begins. "Diamonds on my neck, bitch/Loesoe [meaning, roughly, fucked up] in the sky" — after that, it's straight into the best Faberyayo verse since "Hollereer," and even the goofy parts of the song seem to make sense. It would be the best, if not for . . .

1_FABERYAYO | "UNIFORM" | When Yayo dropped his mixtape in July, all eyes turned to Amsterdam: could the stylish boy wonder of De Jeugd bring the heat without his crew? Not only did young Faberyayo exceed expectations, he crafted the undisputed Dutch jam of the summer. It wasn't just the icy, stoic beat and Yayo's superlative Dutch flow that made it the hottest Nederhop single since Dio's "Aye." Uniform also defined the mandatory look of 2010 with the hook: "A.P.C. praka, Patta Parra jacka, Desert Boot Clarks, Ray-Ban splanga. Uniform." Even though nobody knows what the hell he's saying, we can pick out enough brand names to get our steez right.

DAVID THORPE | dthorpe@phx.com

SARAH DOUCETTE

YEAR IN REVIEW
Hip-Hop

NOW TRENDING AT THEPHOENIX.COM/SOCIAL: 100 ESSENTIAL HIP-HOP TRACKS OF 2010

BUSTLE AND FLOW

SLAINE LED BOSTON'S BOOMING RAP SCENE IN 2010

BY CHRIS FARAONE

HUB BUB Never mind *The Town* – Slaine's greatest contribution to Boston in 2010 was his *The Devil Never Dies* mixtape.

So I'm walking past the Jeanie Johnston in Jamaica Plain after the Boston Music Awards, and I see Slaine and his friend Ronnie hugging the bar and crushing rum and cokes. Despite being nominated for Best Hip-Hop Act, the Southie-Roslindale rapper actor preferred to spend the evening getting whacked at his old stand-by, which was empty by the time I spotted them and joined in for a nightcap.

In defending his decision to skip the awards, Slaine mentioned his disappointment that Sam Adams wasn't also nominated — yes, the same Sam Adams whom months earlier he banned from Boston, and whose music he decried as "blueblood frat-boy bullshit." "He had the biggest album of the year," Slaine now says. "You can't deny that." I suppose he's right — a complete unknown last December, the kid has already graduated from Harpers Ferry to the House of Blues.

If cool heads have finally emerged on the Sam Adams issue, that must be because the Boston underground — and everybody else, really — is also in good shape. The Hub has always had extraordinary hip-hop talent and remarkable releases; at times, however, it's lacked significant local and national exposure. That's no longer the case. Much as in the early 2000s, Boston this year re-emerged as an indie-rap mecca where the acts don't sell out but their shows often do. In April, the Bean lost one of its greatest in Gang Starr MC Guru, who succumbed to cancer at 43. But in his wake, it seems New England's budding rap stars have gotten a whole lot brighter.

There's no denying that Slaine, who just dropped his *The Devil Never Dies* (Suburban Noize) mixtape, and DJ Statik Selektah command the forefront of said enthusiasm. (See "Cellars by Starlight" in the October 22 *Phoenix*.) The latter's *1982* (Brick) with Termanology even made commercial waves, and Slaine's role in Ben Affleck's *The Town* also garnered attention for the city. But the real story is that those three aren't carrying the torch alone. Rather, they've opened doors for scores of rookies, regulars, and veterans to compete with cats from every city, scene, and subgenre.

Special Teamz gunner Jaysaun's long-awaited *Game of Breath* (Brain on Drugz Music) was titanic, and his video for "On Your Job" is a hilarious high-budget production feat. And there are other signs that roughneck street rap is back with a vengeance. Chilla Jones and Amadeus hit the mixtape circuit hard in 2010, as did Cambridge champs NBS, whose Celtics salute "Who Are We?" showed the world that in Boston even our sports anthems are hardcore ghetto bangers.

With his first official album following a two-year radio and concert blitz, North Shore native M-Dot (who won the BMA for Best Hip-Hop Act) dropped the downright dope *Run-MPC* (EMS) with Parisian producer Jean Maron. He'll return in January with a true solo outing, and no doubt after that with something even bigger. Also progressing from fresh interim mixtapes to proper projects are Mattapan lyricist Singapore Kane and Reks, who — no exaggeration — may be the best rapper alive. Reks has been recording with Moe Pope, whose *Life After God* (Brick) with producer Rain is a superlative pick for 2010 hip-hop anywhere.

Other long-time players also delivered. 7L & Esoteric reunited on the stellar *1212* (Fly Casual Creative); Nabo Rawk and Paul Foley turned Wasted Talent into a masked performance-art collective; Oak Lonetree cut about 25 new albums; Virtuoso, Dre Robinson, and Mic Stylz returned strong after years on the lam. New-crew honors go to Fameless Fam, Agari Crew, Click Animosity, and many more whom I'll be watching next year. Maybe Slaine was right about Sam Adams and his impact. I just never thought that it would take a "blueblood frat boy" to invigorate the toughest subterranean rap scene on the planet. ◉

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YEAR IN REVIEW
Genre Watch

DESIGN A LABEL

REVISITING A YEAR OF TAGS, TRENDS, AND TRIBULATIONS

_BY REYAN ALI

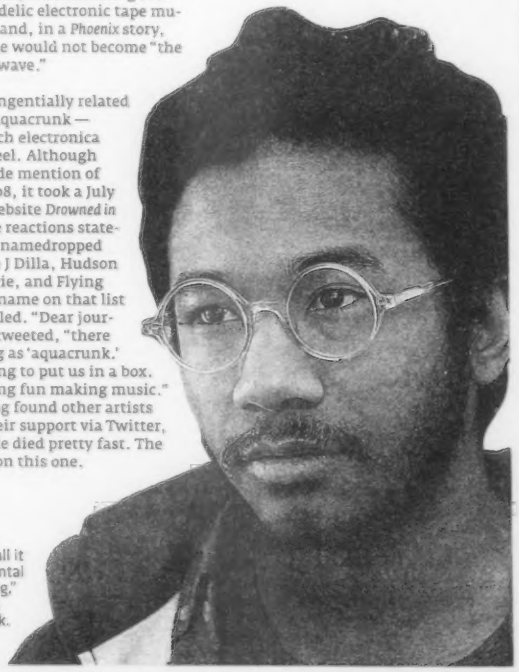
Artists may not like to admit it, but genres are and always will be invaluable for discussing music. The existence of descriptive terms like punk and reggae and electronica — phrases that evoke without a note — allows listeners to pinpoint ideas tethered to sounds (for easy access or discovery) and artists to grapple with established ideas in interesting fashion. (Hello, folk metal!) Still, there are so many genres already that musicians and audiences alike tend to be skeptical of new ones. This year saw a boom in obscure subgenres, and the relevant artists navigated carefully.

CHILLWAVE | As far as genres spawned by the blogosphere go, chillwave (a/k/a glo-fi, or hypnagogic pop) will likely survive the buzz. Tongue-in-cheek creation or not, it's valid. In 2009, a smattering of musicians seemed to work from a common template (typically, one-man lo-fi pop projects smitten with cassette tapes and a nebulous retro sensibility) that pulled Neon Indian, Toro y Moi, Washed Out, MillionYoung, and others into its fold. The style remained all over the music press this year as the artists clarified their stances. "'Chillwave' is probably the last thing I would think of, but I don't mind it," Toro y Moi's Chazwick Bundick told *Pitchfork*. "I just usually tell people I like to call it pop, or experimental pop, or something." Neon Indian's Alan Palomo took a similar tack, characterizing his work as "psychedelic electronic tape music" in *SF Weekly* and, in a *Phoenix* story, declaring that he would not become "the Kerouac of chillwave."

AQUACRUNK | Tangentially related to chillwave is aquacrunk — dreamy, beat-rich electronica with a watery feel. Although the *Guardian* made mention of the genre in 2008, it took a July profile on UK website *Drowned in Sound* to provoke reactions stateside. The guide namedropped progenitors like J Dilla, Hudson Mohawke, Rustie, and Flying Lotus. The last name on that list wasn't too thrilled. "Dear journalists," Lotus tweeted, "there is no such thing as 'aquacrunk.' Please stop trying to put us in a box. We're just having fun making music." An *LA Weekly* blog found other artists throwing in their support via Twitter, but the kerfuffle died pretty fast. The jury's still out on this one.

RAPE GAZE | This unlikely candidate stemmed from a gag: it's how Creep, riffing on witch house, drag, and haunted house (names for ominous, ambient-heavy styles linked to Salem and oOoOO), poke fun at genre names. "All these microgenres that people come up with are absolutely ridiculous," the group's Lauren Flax told the *Village Voice*. "And this is our small little contribution to the ridiculousness of it all." The tag "rape gaze" comes from Creep's "bedroom eyes"–esque expression in photos, but the joke was murky enough that Flax sent a clarification and apology post-interview.

DOOMGAZE | In August, This Will Destroy You guitarist Jeremy Calindo talked to the *Phoenix* about his band's well-publicized dislike of being labeled "post-rock." (Bassist Donovan Jones can be found on YouTube declaring, "Fuck post-rock.") Yet Calindo did describe Destroy's upcoming *Tunnel Blanket* as "doomgaze," a combo of doom metal and shoegaze. And though TWDY didn't invent that genre, Calindo gave voice to artists' hesitation about *any* genre name: "I'm sure that as soon as too many people start using it, it'll start pissing somebody off and, y'know, back to square one."



RIDE THE CHILLWAVE? "Call it pop, or experimental pop, or something," says Toro y Moi's Chazwick Bundick.

Listings

CLUBS

THURSDAY 23

See Club Directory for phone numbers and addresses.

ALL ASIA CAFÉ | Cambridge | 6 pm | This Time Around + Seth & Zak + Brittany & Katy + Dost + Alen of Dale
ATWOOD'S TAVERN | Cambridge | 10 pm | Dennis Brennan
BEEHIVE | Boston | 6:30 pm | "Dinner Jazz Set"
BLOC 11 CAFÉ | Somerville | 7 pm | "Open Mic" with Kristen Ford
BRITISH BEER COMPANY | Framingham | Brightest Lights
BURREN | Somerville | "Scattershot 80's Night"
CANTAB LOUNGE DOWNSTAIRS | Cambridge | 8 pm | Slow Pussy + John the Babtist + Nuclear Sugar + Stoner Brook
CANTAB LOUNGE UPSTAIRS | Cambridge | 9 pm | Chicken Slacks
CHIANTI CAFÉ | Beverly | 9 pm | "Joe Pino's Christmas Kick-Off Party"
CHURCH | Boston | 8 pm | Trumans Highway + Rufio + Jopian
CLUB PASSIM | Cambridge | 8 pm | Aine Minogue
COLONIAL INN | Concord | 8 pm | John Fitzsimmons & Friends
DADDY'S BEACH CLUB | Hull | 9 pm | "DJ Crazy Skip's Dance Party"
DISTRICT | Boston | 10:30 pm | "IN Thursdays"
DODGE STREET BAR & GRILL | Salem | 9:30 pm | "Tokyo Tramps X-mas Party"
ESTATE | Boston | 10:30 pm | "Glamlife" with DJ Richie Ladue
GOOD LIFE | Boston | 9:30 pm | "Mistletoe 3 Sexy Holiday Party" with DJ Lus + DJ Real P
GREAT SCOTT | Allston | 9 pm | Sherman Burns + Dead Cats Dead Rats + Margin Walker + Pile
HARP | Boston | 9 pm | Chad LaMarsh Band
HOUSE OF BLUES | Boston | 6 pm | "Make Noise: Samaritans with music by Joe Bermudez"
JOHNNY D'S | Somerville | 8 pm | Ben Carter
MIDDLE EAST CORNER | Cambridge | Funkapheliacs
MIDDLE EAST DOWNSTAIRS | Cambridge | 9 pm | Mac Miller
MIDDLE EAST UPSTAIRS | Cambridge | Death & Dance Machine + Big Big Buildings + Olivia Lee
MIDDLESEX LOUNGE | Cambridge | 9 pm | "Make it New"
MIDWAY CAFÉ | Jamaica Plain | 10 pm | "Women's Dance Night" with DJ Summer's Eve
MILKY WAY | Jamaica Plain | 9 pm | Carlos & His Mambo Magic Band
MOJITOS | Boston | "El Antro" with DJ JM
PHOENIX LANDING | Cambridge | 10 pm | "Elements" with Crook & Lenore
PLOUGH & STARS | Cambridge | 10:30 pm | Ghost of Tony Gold
PRECINCT | Somerville | 9 pm | Farewell Dream + Friendly Fire + Hero an Era + Like Waves
RAMROD | Boston | 10 pm | "Mandance" with DJ Dan Leavy
RED ROCK BISTRO & BAR | Swampscott | 8:30 pm | Mary Beth Maes Band
RIVER GODS | Cambridge | 9 pm | "Holiday Horseboxes" with James & Ryan
ROSEBUD BAR & LOUNGE | Somerville | 8 pm | One Free Hand
RUMOR | Boston | 10 pm | "Signature Thursdays" with DJ Roger M + DJ JC
RYLES | Cambridge | 9:30 pm | "Happy Holidays with Ervin Dhimos"
SALLY O'BRIEN'S | Somerville | 9 pm | Jeremy Lyons
SHOWCASE LIVE | Foxborough | 8 pm | Pat Travers + Luke Mullholland
TOAD | Cambridge | 7 pm | Liz Morrison
T.T. THE BEAR'S PLACE | Cambridge | 8 pm | "TT's Annual Holiday Party" with Corin Ashley + Dave Aaronoff + John Powhida + Marc Pinansky + Three Day Threshold + Summer Villains + Andrea Gillis + Eric Salt + Brendan Little + M. Holland + Dan Baker + Hilken Mancini + Tom Janovitz + Auto Interiors + Naked On Rollerskates
UNDERBAR | Boston | 10 pm | "Latin Quarter Thursday" with DJ Dres + DJ Franklin
WOLF DEN AT MOHEGAN SUN | Uncasville | 7 pm | Decades by Dezyne
WONDER BAR | Allston | 10 pm | "Trend Thursdays" with DJ Breeazy
ZUZU | Cambridge | 10 pm | "Decade" with DJ Paul Foley

FRIDAY 24

See Club Directory for phone numbers and addresses.

DADDY'S BEACH CLUB | Hull | 4 pm | "Daddy's Xmas Party" with DJ Crazy Skip
DISTRICT | Boston | 10 pm | "Latin Fridays" with JR Vega
FELT | Boston | 10 pm | "Fantasy Fridays" with DJ Ted L
KITTY O'SHEA'S | Boston | Colm O'Brien
MOJITOS | Boston | DJ Marco Mercado [Lounge] + DJ Chupa [Club]
OM RESTAURANT & LOUNGE | Cambridge | 10 pm | "This Old House Z Square Reunion Party" with DJ Bruno + DJ Eight z
PHOENIX LANDING | Cambridge | 10 pm | "PYT"
RAMROD | Boston | 10 pm | "Bears in the Backroom"
6B LOUNGE | Boston | "I Love the 90's" with DJ T-Rex
THINK TANK | Cambridge | "Rec Room" with DJ Paul Foley + DJ Mario Lemieux
TOP OF THE HUB | Boston | 9 pm | Steve Soares Trio
WOLF DEN AT MOHEGAN SUN | Uncasville | 8 pm | Cartells

SATURDAY 25

See Club Directory for phone numbers and addresses.

DADDY'S BEACH CLUB | Hull | DJ Crazy Skip
DISTRICT | Boston | 10 pm | "Status Saturdays" with DJ Matty D
FELT | Boston | 10 pm | "Superfun Saturdays" with Jay K the DJ
JOHNNY D'S | Somerville | 8 pm | DJ Razz
MOJITOS | Boston | DJ Juan Madrid [Lounge] + DJ JR Vega [Club]
PHOENIX LANDING | Cambridge | 10 pm | DJ Special K
RAMROD | Boston | 10 pm | "Leather Night Out" with DJ Duo Freespace
THINK TANK | Cambridge | KC Hallet
WOLF DEN AT MOHEGAN SUN | Uncasville | 8 pm | "Ronnie Spector's Best Christmas Ever"

SUNDAY 26

See Club Directory for phone numbers and addresses.

BEEHIVE | Boston | 10:30 am | "Sunday Jazz Brunch" | 8 pm | This Is Boston Soul
CANTAB LOUNGE UPSTAIRS | Cambridge | 9 pm | "Candy's Blues, Jazz & Rock Jam"
CHIANTI CAFÉ | Beverly | 6 pm | Whose Muddy Shoes
CHURCH | Boston | 8 pm | Jacaccaitore

Continued on p 40

ZACH DEPUTY performs at the Middle East downstairs on Monday.

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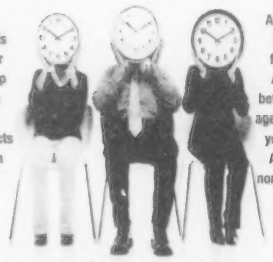

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DOWNSTAIRS
MON 12.27 ROCK ON! CONCERTS PRESENTS: ZACH DEPUTY, RICHARD JAMES BAND
TUE 12.28 THROWED' INDIE - ELECTRO DANCE PARTY WITH RESIDENT DJ: E-MARCE - 9PM
WED 12.29 LEEDZ PRESENTS - ALL AGES HIP HOP WITH: HOODIE ALLEN, MOUFY, AND MORE
THU 12.30 8TH ANNUAL LAST NIGHT ON EARTH: CASPIAN, CONSTANTS, IREPRESS, MOVING MOUNTAINS, DJ SETS BY MIKE FROM JUNIUS
FRI 12.31 WALTHAM (1999), LETTERDAY AS AC/DC ORGAN BEATS AS QUEEN CRADLE TO THE GRAVE AS THE CLASH

UPSTAIRS
SUN 12.26 LEEDZ PRESENTS TWAS THE NIGHT AFTER XMAS 5 ELEMENTAL ZAZEN & MORE
MON 12.27 ELEPHANTOM, TAKE CARE, MTN LION
TUE 12.28 PHIL DAROSA, DUKES COUNTY LOVE AFFAIR CRASHING CARS
WED 12.29 THE A.R.E. WITH THE WAVES & THE FOUR POINT RESTRAINTS
THU 12.30 THE INDOBOX - TWO NIGHT NEW YEARS EVE PARTY! WITH THE GREY AREA - NITE 1
FRI 12.31 THE INDOBOX - TWO NIGHT NEW YEARS EVE PARTY! WITH ROOTS OF CREATION - NITE 2

JUST ADDED: 1/2 STYLES P 1/5 SOUR NOTES EKSI EKSO 1/11 MMOSS, THE IOA 1/26 ZED'S DEAD 1/28 SUCKA BROWN REUNION 2/5 JOELL ORTIZ 2/12 BAD RABBITS 2/25 AFROBRASIL 2/27 TOASTERS 3/7 TONY LUCCA 3/9 THE RURAL ALBERTA ADVANTAGE 3/11 THAT 1 GUY 3/20 ROCKY VOTALATO / MATT POND

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WED - YOUNG TURKS

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THU - FUNKAPHELIACS - HAPPY - HOLIDAYS
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MON - CUT THE CORD PUNK
TUES - OPEN MIC COMEDY
WED - BELLY DANCING

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SATURDAY, DEC 25
MERRY CHRISTMAS
BAR OPENS 6PM
DJ RAZZ
8PM - 12 AM
NO COVER

SUNDAY, DEC 26
JAZZ BRUNCH
8:30AM - 2:30PM
OPEN BLUES JAM
4:30-8:00

MONDAY, DEC 27
$1 HOT DOGS
6-10 PM (21+)
TEAM TRIVIA
8:30 PM

TUESDAY, DEC 28
JUG BAND
THE JETHROS

THURSDAY, DEC 30
REGGAE NEW YEAR'S W/
DUB STATION
W/ SPECIAL GUESTS

FRIDAY, DEC 31
NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY
BOOTY VORTEX
DISCO / FUNK

SATURDAY, JAN 1
NEW YEAR'S DAY
JAZZ BRUNCH
9:30 AM - 3:30 PM
DJ RAZZ 8PM - 12 AM
NO COVER
KITCHEN OPEN 'TIL MIDNIGHT

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1/11- STEEL DRIVERS
1/12- CARMEN SAUZA
1/13- KRUCIAL REGGAE
1/18- CLAUDIA SCHMIDT
1/22- BAND THAT TIME FORGOT
1/29(7PM)GIRL HOWDY
(10PM)JACKSON WETHERBEE

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Listings

Continued from p 39

CLUB PASSIM | Cambridge | 6 pm | Melissa Ferrick
COLONIAL INN | Concord | 7 pm | "Acoustic Open Mic" with Alan Goodrich
FAT CACTUS | Lynnfield | 10:30 am | Preacher Jack
GREAT SCOTT | Allston | 9 pm | Homesteader + Infinity Hotel + Matt | + DJ Holiday Spirit
HOUSE OF BLUES | Boston | 7 pm | "Hometown Throwdown" with Mighty Mighty Bosstones + FU's + We Are the Union
IRON HORSE MUSIC HALL | Northampton | 7 pm | Big Al Anderson + Spampinato Brothers
JOHNNY D'S | Somerville | 4:30 pm | "Open Blues Jam"
LIZARD LOUNGE | Cambridge | 9:30 pm | Jeff Robinson Trio
LUPO'S HEARTBREAK HOTEL | Providence | 8 pm | Badfish + Scotty Don't + Agents + Bad Larrys + Indiana Handshake
MIDDLE EAST UPSTAIRS | Cambridge | 9 pm | "Twas the Night After Xmas Part 5" with Masstapeace + Elemental Zazen
MODEL CAFÉ | Allston | 10 pm | "Rescue Night"
PALLADIUM DOWNSTAIRS | Worcester | 7 pm | Four Year Strong + Fireworks + Trapped Under Ice + No Trigger
PEARL STREET NIGHTCLUB | Northampton | 7 pm | "Lazer 99.3 Holiday Hangover" with All That Remains + One Theory + Last Chance to Reason + Hope Lies Within
PHOENIX LANDING | Cambridge | 10 pm | "Bitch Please" with DJ Leah V + DJ D'hana + DJ WitchTits
PLOUGH & STARS | Cambridge | 5 pm | Natural Wonders | 9 pm | Frank Morey Band
PRECINCT | Somerville | 10 pm | Sea Monsters
QUINCY BEACHCOMBER | Quincy | 4 pm | Fenian Sons
RAMROD | Boston | 10 pm | "Club Classics" with DJ Ace Boogie
RED ROCK BISTRO & BAR | Swampscott | noon | Julie Dougherty
RIVER GODS | Cambridge | 8 pm | "Imaginary Soundtracks" with Raleigh Fingers
SALLY O'BRIEN'S | Somerville | 5 pm | "Frank Drake Sunday Showcase" | 8 pm | Stan Martin & The Honkytonk Heroes
SHOWCASE LIVE | Foxborough | 6 pm | Keep Me Conscious + We the Kings + Westland + Life On Hold
STEVE'S BACKSTAGE PASS | Taunton | 1 pm | "Bluegrass Open Jam" with Harry Cook
THINK TANK | Cambridge | DJ Lonnie Amado
TINKER'S SON | Norwell | 11 am | "Traditional Irish Session" with Skip Toomey | 4 pm | "Open Mic" with Bill Downes | 8 pm | "Open Mic" with Sean Gilmartin
TOAD | Cambridge | 3 pm | "Sunday Spins" with Josh Buckley
TOMMY DOYLE'S AT HARVARD | Cambridge | 8 pm | "Caress Family Christmas Party" with True New Fire + Troubadours
TOP OF THE HUB | Boston | noon | Lee Childs Group | 8 pm | Rebecca Cline Trio
T.T. THE BEAR'S PLACE | Cambridge | 10 pm | Hello Echo + Crimis
UNDERBAR | Boston | 10 pm | "Hot Mess Sundays" with DJ Richie Ladue
VENU | Boston | 10 pm | "Venu Sundays" with DJ Paul Michael
WALNUT STREET COFFEE CAFÉ | Lynn | 6 pm | "Don White's Sunday Open Mic"
WOLF DEN AT MOHEGAN SUN | Uncasville | 7 pm | Duke Robillard
ZUZU | Cambridge | 10 pm | "The Hunger" with DJ Kuro + Infinite Jeff

MONDAY 27

See Club Directory for phone numbers and addresses.

BEEHIVE | Boston | 8 pm | "Spontaneous Combustion Jam"
CANTAB LOUNGE UPSTAIRS | Cambridge | 8 pm | "Geoff Bartley's Folk & Acoustic Open Mic" | 9:30 pm | Michael Troy
CHARLIE'S KITCHEN | Cambridge | 9 pm | Major Stars + Neptune
CHIANTI CAFÉ | Beverly | 9 pm | Headshaft
CHURCH | Boston | 9 pm | Scott Tarulli Band + Marnie Hall + Dave Westner
CLUB PASSIM | Cambridge | 7 pm | Stephen Kellogg & the Sixers + Aslyn
DADDY'S BEACH CLUB | Hull | 8 pm | "Open Mic Nite"
DODGE STREET BAR & GRILL | Salem | 9 pm | "Open Mic" with Sound Carnival
ENORMOUS ROOM | Cambridge | 10 pm | "Beat Research"
GOODBAR | Boston | 8 pm | "Open Mic" with Thom Murphy
HOUSE OF BLUES | Boston | 7 pm | "Hometown Throwdown" with Mighty Mighty Bosstones + H2o + Flatliners
IRON HORSE MUSIC HALL | Northampton | 7 pm | Big Al Anderson + Spampinato Brothers
LILY PAD | Cambridge | 10:22 pm | Fringe
LIZARD LOUNGE | Cambridge | 8 pm | "Open Mic" with Tom Bianchi
MIDDLE EAST CORNER | Cambridge | "Cut the Cord"
MIDDLE EAST DOWNSTAIRS | Cambridge | 9 pm | Zach Deputy
MIDDLE EAST UPSTAIRS | Cambridge | 9 pm | Elephantom + Take Care + Mtn Lion
MODEL CAFÉ | Allston | 10 pm | "Slum It"
OUTPOST | Cambridge | 8 pm | Construction Party
PALLADIUM | Worcester | 4 pm | "Phish Pre-Party" with Cosmic Dust Bunnies + Mus Opus
P.A.'S LOUNGE | Somerville | "Rock, Folk, Alt, R&B, Jazz & Originals Open Mic" with Bill Brockmyer and Brock & Roll Revival Band
PHOENIX LANDING | Cambridge | 10 pm | "Makka Mondays"
PLOUGH & STARS | Cambridge | 10 pm | Big Beat Radio Zilla
PRECINCT | Somerville | Duppy Conquerors
RAMROD | Boston | 10 pm | "The Attic" with DJ Kuro
RIVER GODS | Cambridge | 8 pm | "Weekly Wax DJ Showdown" with Brian, Melissa & Chris
STEVE'S BACKSTAGE PASS | Taunton | 7 pm | "Open Mic" with Tom Beaulieu
TINKER'S SON | Norwell | 8 pm | Echo the Silence + Barroom Heroes
TOAD | Cambridge | 8 pm | White Owls | 10 pm | Gilded Splinters
TOP OF THE HUB | Boston | 8 pm | Marty Ballou Trio
WOLF DEN AT MOHEGAN SUN | Uncasville | 7 pm | Bernadettes
WONDER BAR | Allston | DJ Hevan
ZUZU | Cambridge | 10 pm | "Night of the Living Deadhead" with Levi Fuller + Buick Audry + Boey Bertold

TUESDAY 28

See Club Directory for phone numbers and addresses.

ATWOOD'S TAVERN | Cambridge |

CLUB DIRECTORY

ALCHEMY BISTRO | 978.281.3997 | 3 Duncan St, Gloucester
ALL ASIA CAFÉ | 617.497.1544 | 134 Mass Ave, Cambridge
ATWOOD'S TAVERN | 617.864.2792 | 877 Cambridge St, Cambridge
BEEHIVE | 617.423.0069 | 541 Tremont St, Boston
BLOC 11 CAFÉ | 617.623.0000 | 11 Bow St, Somerville
BRITISH BEER COMPANY | 508.879.1776 | 120 Worcester Rd, Framingham
BURREN | 617.776.6896 | 247 Elm St, Somerville
CAFÉ 47 | 617.536.1577 | 47 Mass Ave, Boston
CANTAB LOUNGE | 617.354.2685 | 738 Mass Ave, Cambridge
CHARLIE'S KITCHEN | 617.492.9646 | 10 Eliot St, Cambridge
CHIANTI CAFÉ | 978.921.2233 | 285 Cabot St, Beverly
CHURCH | 617.236.7600 | 69 Kilmarnock St, Boston
CLUB PASSIM | 617.492.7679 | 47 Palmer St, Cambridge
COLONIAL INN | 978.369.9200 | 48 Monument Square, Concord
COMEDY STUDIO | 617.661.6507 | 1236 Mass Ave, Cambridge
COMIX AT FOXWOODS | 860.312.6649 | 350 Trolley Line Blvd, Mashantucket, CT
CORNERSTONES RESTAURANT | 978.537.1991 | 616 Central St, Leominster
DADDY'S BEACH CLUB | 781.925.3600 | 280 Nantasket Ave, Hull
DARRYL'S CORNER BAR & KITCHEN | 617.536.1100 | 604 Columbus Ave, Boston
DICK'S BEANTOWN COMEDY VAULT AT REMINGTON'S | 617.482.0110 | 124 Boylston St, Boston
DISTRICT | 617.426.0180 | 180 Lincoln St, Boston
DODGE STREET BAR & GRILL | 978.745.0139 | 7 Dodge St, Salem
ENORMOUS ROOM | 617.491.5599 | 567 Mass Ave, Cambridge
ESTATE | 617.351.7000 | 1 Boylston Pl, Boston
FAT CACTUS | 781.592.0077 | 215 Broadway, Lynnfield
FELT | 617.350.5555 | 533 Washington St, Boston
FIRE & ICE | 617.547.9007 | 50 Church St, Cambridge
FUSION 5 | 508.543.0599 | 105 Washington St, Foxborough
GOOD LIFE | 617.451.2622 | 28 Kingston St, Boston
GOODBAR | 617.723.7050 | 183 State St, Boston
GREAT SCOTT | 617.566.9014 | 1222 Comm Ave, Allston
HARP | 617.742.1010 | 85 Causeway St, Boston
HOUSE OF BLUES | 888.693.2583 | 36 Lansdowne St, Boston
IMPROV ASYLUM | 617.263.6887 | 216 Hanover St, Boston
IMPROVBOSTON | 617.576.1253 | 40 Prospect St, Cambridge
IRON HORSE MUSIC HALL | 413.586.8686 | 20 Center St, Northampton
JOHNNY D'S | 617.776.2004 | 17 Holland St, Somerville
KITTY O'SHEA'S | 617.725.0100 | 131 State St, Boston
LATITUDE 43 | 978.281.0223 | 25 Rogers St, Gloucester
LILY PAD | 617.497.0823 | 1353 Cambridge St, Cambridge
LIZARD LOUNGE | 617.547.0759 | 1667 Mass Ave, Cambridge
LUPO'S HEARTBREAK HOTEL | 401.331.LUPO | 79 Washington St, Providence, RI
MIDDLE EAST | 617.864.EAST | 472-480 Mass Ave, Cambridge
MIDDLESEX LOUNGE | 617.868.MSEX | 315 Mass Ave, Cambridge
MIDWAY CAFÉ | 617.524.9038 | 3496 Washington St, Jamaica Plain
MILKY WAY | 617.524.3740 | at the Brewery, 284 Armory St, Jamaica Plain
MODEL CAFÉ | 617.254.9365 | 7 North Beacon St, Allston
MOJITOS | 617.988.8123 | 48 Winter St, Boston
MOTTLEY'S COMEDY CLUB | 877.61.LAUGH | 61 Chatham St, Faneuil Hall, Boston
O'BRIEN'S | 617.782.6245 | 3 Harvard Ave, Allston
OM RESTAURANT & LOUNGE | 617.576.2800 | 92 Winthrop St, Cambridge
OUTPOST | 617.876.0860 | 186 1/2 Hampshire St, Cambridge
PALLADIUM | 978.797.9696 | 261 Main St, Worcester
PARADISE ROCK CLUB | 617.562.8800 | 967 Comm Ave, Boston
P.A.'S LOUNGE | 617.776.1557 | 345 Somerville Ave, Somerville
PEARL STREET NIGHTCLUB | 413.584.0610 | 10 Pearl St, Northampton
PHOENIX LANDING | 617.576.6260 | 512 Mass Ave, Cambridge
PLOUGH & STARS | 617.576.0032 | 912 Mass Ave, Cambridge
PRECINCT | 617.623.9211 | 70 Union Sq, Somerville
QUINCY BEACHCOMBER | 617.479.8989 | 797 Wollaston Beach Blvd, Quincy
RAMROD | 617.266.2986 | 1254 Boylston St, Boston
RED ROCK BISTRO & BAR | 781.595.1414 | 141 Humphrey St, Swampscott
RIVER GODS | 617.576.1881 | 125 River St, Cambridge
ROSEBUD BAR & LOUNGE | 617.666.6015 | 381 Summer St, Somerville
RUMOR | 617.422.0045 | 100 Warrenton St, Boston
RYLE'S | 617.876.9330 | 212 Hampshire St, Cambridge
SALLY O'BRIEN'S | 617.666.3589 | 335 Somerville Ave, Somerville
SHOWCASE LIVE | 888.354.7042 | 23 Patriot Pl, Foxborough
6B LOUNGE | 617.742.8565 | 6B Beacon St, Boston
SMOKEN' JOE'S BBQ | 617.254.5227 | 351 Washington St, Brighton
SPLASH ULTRA LOUNGE & BURGER BAR | 617.426.6397 | 150 Kneeland St, Boston
STEVE'S BACKSTAGE PASS | 508.824.4143 | 15 School St, Taunton
THINK TANK | 617.500.3031 | 1 Kendall Square, Bldg 300, Cambridge
TIKI HIDEAWAY AT HOWARD JOHNSON | 617.267.3100 | 1271 Boylston St, Boston
TINKER'S SON | 781.561.7361 | 707 Main St, Norwell
TOAD | 617.497.4950 | 1920 Mass Ave, Cambridge
TOMMY DOYLE'S AT HARVARD | 617.864.0655 | 96 Winthrop St, Cambridge
TOP OF THE HUB | 617.536.1775 | at the Prudential Center, 800 Boylston St, Boston
T.T. THE BEAR'S PLACE | 617.492.2327 | 10 Brookline St, Cambridge
UNDERBAR | 617.292.0080 | 275 Tremont St, Boston
VENU | 617.338.8061 | 100 Warrenton St, Boston
WALNUT STREET COFFEE CAFÉ | 781.596.1690 | 157 Walnut St, Lynn
WOLF DEN AT MOHEGAN SUN | 888.226.7711 | 1 Mohegan Sun Blvd, Uncasville, CT
WONDER BAR | 617.351.2665 | 186 Harvard Ave, Allston
ZUZU | 617.864.3278 | 474 Mass Ave, Cambridge

PHISH jam at Worcester's DCU Center on Monday and Tuesday.

10 pm | Kosher Ham
BEEHIVE | Boston | 8 pm | Jerry Bergonzi + Phil Grenadier
BURREN | Somerville | 6:30 pm | "Open Mic" with Hugh McGowan
CAFÉ 47 | Boston | 7:30 pm | "Live Jazz" with Sagit Zilberman
CANTAB LOUNGE UPSTAIRS | Cambridge | 8 pm | "Pickin' Party" | 8:30 pm | Lowbrow Boyz
CHIANTI CAFÉ | Beverly | 9 pm | Fats Hammond
CHURCH | Boston | 9 pm | Ben Carter + Mudflap Junior Jones + Darren Hawe + Peter Buzzelle
CLUB PASSIM | Cambridge | 8 pm | Darrelle London + Liz Longley
GOOD LIFE | Boston | 8:30 pm | Tuesday Night Squabble
HOUSE OF BLUES | Boston | 8 pm | "Hometown Throwdown" with Mighty Mighty Bosstones + Less Than Jake + DYS
IRON HORSE MUSIC HALL | Northampton | 7 pm | John Eddie | 10 pm | "Latin Night" with DJ Joey Acevedo
JOHNNY D'S | Somerville | 8 pm | Jethros
LIZARD LOUNGE | Cambridge | 9 pm | Session Americana
LUPO'S HEARTBREAK HOTEL | Providence | 9:30 pm | Wu-Tang Clan
MIDDLE EAST DOWNSTAIRS | Cambridge | 10 pm | "Throwed" with DJ E-Marce
MIDDLE EAST UPSTAIRS | Cambridge | Phil Darosa + Dukes County Love Affair
MIDDLESEX LOUNGE | Cambridge | 9 pm | "Sslloooww"
O'BRIEN'S | Allston | 9 pm | Annabel + Empire Empire
PALLADIUM | Worcester | 6:30 pm | Black Christmas + Necronomichrist + Hivesmasher + Naegleria + Pathogenic + Nemecide + Composted
P.A.'S LOUNGE | Somerville | 9 pm | Eat Cloud + Space Faces + Mind Yeti + Tim Kenny
PLOUGH & STARS | Cambridge | 10:30 pm | Heather Maloney
RAMROD | Boston | 10 pm | 'Vice" with DJ Sun One
RIVER GODS | Cambridge | 9 pm | "Imperialisms" with Jesse Kaminsky + Angela Sawyer
RUMOR | Boston | 10 pm | "Evolution Tuesdays" with DJ Hectik
SALLY O'BRIEN'S | Somerville | 9 pm | Levy-Stubbs-Rivelli Trio
STEVE'S BACKSTAGE PASS | Taunton | 8 pm | "Tuesday Night Blues" with Steve Paolucci
TIKI HIDEAWAY AT HOWARD JOHNSON | Boston | 7 pm | "Fenway Jazz Jam" with David Ehle Guitar Trio
TINKER'S SON | Norwell | 9 pm | "Open Mic" with Jackson Wetherbee
TOAD | Cambridge | 7 pm | Ryan Fitzsimmons | 10 pm | Ross Livermore Band
TOMMY DOYLE'S AT HARVARD | Cambridge | 9:30 pm | Erica Leigh + Brian Dunne
T.T. THE BEAR'S PLACE | Cambridge | 10 pm | Forms + Cloud
UNDERBAR | Boston | 10 pm | "Cream" with Brek.One + DJ BK
VENU | Boston | 10 pm | "Venu Tuesdays" with DJ Roger M + DJ Hectik
WOLF DEN AT MOHEGAN SUN | Uncasville | 7 pm | Major Motion
WONDER BAR | Allston | 10 pm | "Music Ecology" with Kilo Watts + Professorpious
ZUZU | Cambridge | 10 pm | "Work" with DJ Leah V + Justincredible + Ghostdad

WEDNESDAY 29

See Club Directory for phone numbers and addresses.
ALL ASIA CAFÉ | Cambridge | 9 pm | "Open Mic" with Bryan Murphy
ATWOOD'S TAVERN | Cambridge | 10 pm | Elastic Waste Band
BLOC 11 CAFÉ | Somerville | 7 pm | Cilla Bonnie + Brothers Donovan
CANTAB LOUNGE UPSTAIRS | Cambridge | 9 pm | "Candy's Blues, Jazz & Rock Jam"
CHIANTI CAFÉ | Beverly | 9 pm | Jen Kearney & Lost Onion
CHURCH | Boston | 9 pm | This Way Band + Mallett Brothers Band + Marion Grace
CLUB PASSIM | Cambridge | 8 pm | Marshall Crenshaw
COLONIAL INN | Concord | 8 pm | Jimmy Mazzy & Last Minute Men
FUSION 5 | Foxborough | "Country Dance Night"
IRON HORSE MUSIC HALL | Northampton | 7 pm | Mike Doughty + Patrick McGrath
LATITUDE 43 | Gloucester | "Dennis Monagle's Wednesday Night Showcase"
LILY PAD | Cambridge | 10 pm | Bob Gullotti Project | 10 pm | Steve Branson Trio + Patrick Battstone
LIZARD LOUNGE | Cambridge | 9 pm | Giant Kings
MIDDLE EAST DOWNSTAIRS | Cambridge | 9 pm | Hoodie Allen + Moufy
MIDDLE EAST UPSTAIRS | Cambridge | A.R.E. + Waves + Four Point Restraints
MIDDLESEX LOUNGE | Cambridge | 9 pm | "Cool Ranch" with Bodega Girls
MIDWAY CAFÉ | Jamaica Plain | 8 pm | Johnny Earthquake & Friends
MILKY WAY | Jamaica Plain | 9 pm | "Reggae Night" with Jah Rich
O'BRIEN'S | Allston | 9 pm | Sevi D & Wilds + Vostok 4 + Barricades + Bonfire Blue
OUTPOST | Cambridge | 8 pm | Forbes Graham & Friends
PALLADIUM | Worcester | 9 pm | New Deal
P.A.'S LOUNGE | Somerville | Grave Robbers + Wounded Knee + Brady Alice
PEARL STREET NIGHTCLUB | Northampton | 9 pm | 7 Walkers
PHOENIX LANDING | Cambridge | 10 pm | "Midweek Techno" with Sergio Santos + Pat Fontes + Soul Clap
PLOUGH & STARS | Cambridge | 10:30 pm | Bad Art Ensemble
RAMROD | Boston | 10 pm | "Hump!" with DJ Mike Giller
RIVER GODS | Cambridge | 9 pm | "Primitive Sounds" with Jason Beek + PJ Eastman
RUMOR | Boston | 10 pm | "Rumor Wednesdays" with DJ Adilson + DJ Boatslip + DJ Maryalice
RYLES | Cambridge | 9 pm | Josef Nadj Fusion System
SMOKEN' JOE'S BBQ | Brighton | 9 pm | Sarah & the Tall Boys
SPLASH ULTRA LOUNGE & BURGER BAR | Boston | 10 pm | "Famous Wednesdays" with DJ Dirty Dek
TINKER'S SON | Norwell | 7 pm | Session
TOAD | Cambridge | 7 pm | Fandango | 10 pm | Tim Gearan + Eric Royer + Jimmy Ryan + Christian McNeill
TOP OF THE HUB | Boston | 8:30 pm | Bob Nieske Group + Phil Grenadier
T.T. THE BEAR'S PLACE | Cambridge | 9 pm | Hello Ninja + All Ages + Stroamata
VENU | Boston | 10 pm | "Venu Wednesdays" with DJ Adilson + DJ Boatslip + DJ Maryalice
WOLF DEN AT MOHEGAN SUN | Uncasville | 7 pm | Jay Dempsey & Highway Call
ZUZU | Cambridge | 10 pm | "Extra Bonus Young Turks Rock Dance Party"

MEET THE MAYOR

DEREK KOUROUMIAN

CHICKEN LOU'S, PUNTER'S PUB, WOLLASTON'S GROCERY, NU PIZZA HUT/TACO BELL EXPRESS, AND NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY
AVI SABAN
(foursquare.com/itsavitime)

WHY DO YOU EAT OUT SO OFTEN?
Well, I haven't eaten the cafeteria food. Apparently, the combination Pizza Hut/Taco Bell is the only Taco Bell in Boston. I guess I'm the mayor of Taco Bell for all of Boston.

THERE'S NO WAY THAT'S TRUE.
I haven't seen a Taco Bell anywhere else. If it isn't true, I would like to find another one.

DRIVING PAST NU, THE FIRST THING YOU SEE IS PEOPLE JOGGING IN THE MARINO CENTER. I THINK THEY SET IT UP LIKE THAT ON PURPOSE TO MAKE NU LOOK SEXIER.
Well, if you walk into the Marino Center, it's set up as a giant column where you can look up at the undergrads as they work out. It makes it weird eating there. It makes me feel bad about not exercising, and it puts them on display. It's kind of creepy.

THE MARINO CENTER MAKES YOU FEEL LIKE A PERVERT?
Yes. But I guess Northeastern makes you feel like that sometimes. Or it makes you hungry.

_Barry Thompson

Want to be interviewed about your Foursquare mayorship? Give us a shout: tweet @bostonphoenix or email listings@phx.com. And for tips, friend us: foursquare.com/bostonphoenix.

THURSDAY 30

See Club Directory for phone numbers and addresses.
ALCHEMY BISTRO | Gloucester | 7:30 pm | "Village Night" with Dan King
ALL ASIA CAFÉ | Cambridge | 6 pm | Closer Than We Appear + Monikers + Red Sky Mary
ATWOOD'S TAVERN | Cambridge | 10 pm | Dennis Brennan
BEEHIVE | Boston | 10 pm | Rajdulari
BLOC 11 CAFÉ | Somerville | 7 pm | "Open Mic" with Kristen Ford
BRITISH BEER COMPANY | Framingham | Element 78
BURREN | Somerville | "Scattershot 80's Night"
CANTAB LOUNGE DOWNSTAIRS | Cambridge | 8 pm | Jimmy Talbot + Tsunami of Sound + Crazy Young Buffalos + Geezer
CANTAB LOUNGE UPSTAIRS | Cambridge | 9 pm | Chicken Slacks
CHIANTI CAFÉ | Beverly | 9 pm | Turk, Rowen, Mele, & Silverstein
CHURCH | Boston | 9 pm | Short Summers + Action Verbs
CLUB PASSIM | Cambridge | 7 pm | Ellis Paul
COLONIAL INN | Concord | 8 pm | John Fitzsimmons & Friends
CORNERSTONES RESTAURANT | Leominster | 7:30 pm | 25th Hour
DADDY'S BEACH CLUB | Hull | 9 pm | "DJ Crazy Skip's Dance Party"
DARRYL'S CORNER BAR & KITCHEN | Boston | Pat Loomis Quartet
DODGE STREET BAR & GRILL | Salem | 9:30 pm | Mary Beth Maes
FIRE & ICE | Cambridge | 10:30 pm | "Brazilian Dance Night"
GOOD LIFE | Boston | 9:30 pm | "A Lil Louder" with Jus Cuz & Almighty PFP + Bounty Killah + George Kranz + Crystal Waters
GREAT SCOTT | Allston | 9 pm | Banditas + Waking Lights + Bunny's A Swine
HOUSE OF BLUES | Boston | 8 pm | moe. + Rag
IRON HORSE MUSIC HALL | Northampton | 7 + 10 pm | Enter the Haggis
JOHNNY D'S | Somerville | 9 pm | "Krucial Reggae New Year's Party" with Dub Station Band
MIDDLE EAST CORNER | Cambridge | Chelsea City Council
MIDDLE EAST DOWNSTAIRS | Cambridge | 9 pm | Caspian + Constants + Irepress + Moving Mountains
MIDDLE EAST UPSTAIRS | Cambridge | 9 pm | Indobox + Grey Area
MIDDLESEX LOUNGE | Cambridge | 9 pm | "Make it New"
MIDWAY CAFÉ | Jamaica Plain | 10 pm | 'Women's Dance Night" with DJ Summer's Eve
MILKY WAY | Jamaica Plain | 9 pm | Summer of Aden + Ethan Robbins & Cold Chocolate + Bridgette Isabella Semler
MOJITOS | Boston | "El Antro" with DJ JM
PALLADIUM | Worcester | 6:30 pm | End Of The World + Astronomer + Sharpshooter + Lifeloss + Malachi + Swamps
PARADISE ROCK CLUB | Boston | 9 pm | Soulive + Nigel Hall
P.A.'S LOUNGE | Somerville | Ruin/Renewal + Adrian Emberley + Derek Rando
PEARL STREET NIGHTCLUB | Northampton | 7 pm | Badfish + Scotty Don't + Wyld Stallyns + WT-Funk + Wolfman Conspiracy
PHOENIX LANDING | Cambridge | 10 pm | "Elements" with Crook & Lenore
PLOUGH & STARS | Cambridge | 10:30 pm | Jeddo Stars + Jade Sylvan
RED ROCK BISTRO & BAR | Swampscott | 8:30 pm | Brian Maes Band
RIVER GODS | Cambridge | 9 pm | "Soul Party" with DJ Quilty
RUMOR | Boston | 10 pm | "Signature Thursdays" with DJ Roger M + DJ JC
RYLES | Cambridge | 8:30 pm | Mark Zaleski
SALLY O'BRIEN'S | Somerville | 6 pm | Patsy Hamel Band | 9 pm | Mayberry
SHOWCASE LIVE | Foxborough | 8 pm | Roots
6B LOUNGE | Boston | "Sin City Thursdays" with DJ Switch It Up
THINK TANK | Cambridge | "Unprotected Decks"
TINKER'S SON | Norwell | 9 pm | Justin Beech
TOAD | Cambridge | 7 pm | Melvern Taylor & his Fabulous Meltones | 10 pm | Sam Reid & the Riot Act
TOMMY DOYLE'S AT HARVARD | Cambridge | 9:30 pm | Klyce Family Band | midnight | DJ Special K
TOP OF THE HUB | Boston | 8:30 pm | Bob Nieske Group + Phil Grenadier
UNDERBAR | Boston | 10 pm | "Latin Quarter Thursday" with DJ Dres + DJ Franklin
WOLF DEN AT MOHEGAN SUN | Uncasville | 8 pm | Halestorm
WONDER BAR | Allston | 10 pm | "Trend Thursdays" with DJ Breeazy
ZUZU | Cambridge | 10 pm | "Cult Jam" with DJ Paul Foley

COMEDY

THURSDAY 23

See Club Directory for phone numbers and addresses.
COMEDY STUDIO | 8 pm | Sarah Blodgett + Chris Fleming + Ted Pettingell + Kyle Ploof + Brian Shimkin
DICK'S BEANTOWN COMEDY VAULT AT REMINGTON'S | 8:30 pm | "Comedy Sandbox"
IMPROV ASYLUM | 8 pm | "Hungry Hungry Hipsters" | 10 pm | "Sassy Gay Friend"
IMPROVBOSTON MAIN THEATER | 8 pm | "Love Seasonally"
TIKI HIDEAWAY AT HOWARD JOHNSON | 8 pm | "Grandma's Basement Open Mic"

SATURDAY 25

See Club Directory for phone numbers and addresses.
COMIX AT FOXWOODS | 7:30 + 10 pm | Valles + Boros

SUNDAY 26

See Club Directory for phone numbers and addresses.
COMEDY STUDIO | 8 pm | Jeff MacKinnon + Ted Pettingell + Anthony Scibelli + Don Zollo
COMIX AT FOXWOODS | 8:30 pm | Valles + Boros
DICK'S BEANTOWN COMEDY VAULT AT REMINGTON'S | 9 pm | "Open Mike Night"
IMPROV ASYLUM | 3 + 8 pm | "Hungry Hungry Hipsters"
IMPROVBOSTON MAIN THEATER | 9 pm | "Stand-Up Sundays"

MONDAY 27

See Club Directory for phone numbers and addresses.
DICK'S BEANTOWN COMEDY VAULT AT REMINGTON'S | 8:30 pm | "Weekend Extender"
IMPROV ASYLUM | 8 pm | "Hungry Hungry Hipsters"
Continued on p 42

Listings

Continued from p 41

TUESDAY 28

See Club Directory for phone numbers and addresses.

COMEDY STUDIO | 8 pm | "Mystery Lounge!"
DICK'S BEANTOWN COMEDY VAULT AT REMINGTON'S | 8:30 pm | "Comedy Showcase"
IMPROV ASYLUM | 8 pm | "Hungry Hungry Hipsters"

WEDNESDAY 29

See Club Directory for phone numbers and addresses.

COMEDY STUDIO | 8 pm | Matt Bowker + Andrew Durso + Mr. Goodnight + Cameron Moore + James Nixon
DICK'S BEANTOWN COMEDY VAULT AT REMINGTON'S | 8:30 pm | "Comedy Showcase"
IMPROV ASYLUM | 8 pm | "Vanity Project"
IMPROVBOSTON MAIN THEATER | 8 pm | "Comedy Lab"
MOTTLEY'S COMEDY CLUB | 8 pm | "Mottley's Comedy Bailout"

THURSDAY 30

See Club Directory for phone numbers and addresses.

COMEDY STUDIO | 8 pm | James Creelman + Julie K. + Hannie Khalil + Alicia Love + Tim Messenger
COMIX AT FOXWOODS | 8 pm | Lynne Koplitz + Kevin Brennan + Julian McCullough
DICK'S BEANTOWN COMEDY VAULT AT REMINGTON'S | 8:30 pm | "Comedy Sandbox"
IMPROV ASYLUM | 8 + 10 pm | "Hungry Hungry Hipsters"
IMPROVBOSTON MAIN THEATER | 8 pm | "Harold Night" | 10 pm | "10 Slot"
MOTTLEY'S COMEDY CLUB | 8 pm | "Mike Dorval's Trials of Love"

CONCERTS

Popular

THURSDAY 23

"LEGENDS IN CONCERT HOLIDAY SHOW" | With Elvis Presley, Marilyn Monroe, Neil Diamond, Stevie Wonder, and Dean Martin impersonators | Thurs + Sat + Tues 8 pm; Sun 4 pm; Wed 1 pm | Fox Theatre @ Foxwoods, 39 Norwich Westerly Rd, Ledyard, CT | $25 | 866.646.0609

SATURDAY 25

PRINCE ROYCE | 7 pm | Lynn Memorial Auditorium, 3 City Hall Square, Lynn | $18.50-$75 | 781.599.1444
"LEGENDS IN CONCERT HOLIDAY SHOW" | See listing for Thurs

SUNDAY 26

NAHO BESSHO | 2 pm | Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St, Newton | Free | 617.796.1360
"LEGENDS IN CONCERT HOLIDAY SHOW" | See listing for Thurs

MONDAY 27

"OPEN JAMM" | With Joe Cardoza + Dennis Monagle + Dan King | 9:30 pm | Rhumb Line, 40 Railroad Ave, Gloucester | free | 978.283.9732
PHISH | Mon-Tues 7:30 pm | DCU Center, 50 Foster St, Worcester | $58 | 800.745.3000 or ticketmaster.com
SURPRISE ME MR. DAVIS | 8 pm | Narrows Center for the Arts, 275 Martine St, Fall River | $18; $15 advance | 508.324.1926

TUESDAY 28

JAZZ JAM | With Jamie Stewardson | 8 pm | Amazing Things Arts Center, 160 Hollis St, Framingham | $6 | 508.405.2787
"LEGENDS IN CONCERT HOLIDAY SHOW" | See listing for Thurs
PHISH | See listing for Mon

WEDNESDAY 29

THIRD EYE BLIND | 8 pm | MCM Grand at Foxwoods, 39 Norwich Westerly Rd, Ledyard, CT | $30-$50 | 800.745.3000 or ticketmaster.com
"LEGENDS IN CONCERT HOLIDAY SHOW" | See listing for Thurs

THURSDAY 30

FOLK OPEN MIC | With Peter Neuendorffer + Dan Cloutier | 7:30 pm | Amazing Things Arts Center, 160 Hollis St, Framingham | $6 | 508.405.2787
CARRIE UNDERWOOD | 8 pm | MCM Grand at Foxwoods, 39 Norwich Westerly Rd, Ledyard, CT | $100-$150 | 800.745.3000 or ticketmaster.com
"LEGENDS IN CONCERT HOLIDAY SHOW" | See listing for Thurs

WEDNESDAY 29

BOSTON BALLET | See listing for Thurs

THURSDAY 30

BOSTON BALLET | See listing for previous Thurs

Classical

THURSDAY 23

BOSTON POPS ORCHESTRA CONDUCTED BY KEITH LOCKHART | "Holiday Pops," featuring the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's *Messiah*, children's sing-along carols, and more | Thurs 4 + 8 pm; Fri 11 am + 3 pm | Symphony Hall, 301 Mass Ave, Boston | $27-$125 | 888.266.1200
ELLEN OAK, ARISTIDES RIVAS, AND YOKO IGARASHI | Hildegard von Bingen, Fauré, Orlande de Lassus, and Brahms | 7:30 pm | St. John's Episcopal Church, 1 Roanoke Ave, Jamaica Plain | $10 | 617.524.2999
ZAMIR CHORALE OF BOSTON CONDUCTED BY JOSHUA JACOBSON | Bernstein program: *Chichester Psalms*, *Hashkiveinu*, and songs from *West Side Story*, *On the Town*, and *Candide* | 7:30 pm | Temple Emanuel, 385 Ward St, Newton | $25 | 617.558.8100

FRIDAY 24

BOSTON POPS ORCHESTRA CONDUCTED BY KEITH LOCKHART | See listing for Thurs

SUNDAY 26

NAHO BESSHO | Works by Weber, Fauré, Mendelssohn, Medtner, and Rachmaninov | 2 pm | Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St, Newton | Free | 617.796.1360

WEDNESDAY 29

ARTEM BELOGUROV | Piano recital | 5:30 pm | Church of St. John the Evangelist, 35 Bowdoin St, Boston | Free | 617.227.5242

DANCE

THURSDAY 23

BOSTON BALLET | *The Nutcracker* | Thurs + Tues 1 + 7:30 pm; Fri noon; Sun 1 + 5:30 pm; Wed 1 pm | Opera House, 539 Washington St, Boston | $35-$162 | 617.931.ARTS
PORTLAND BALLET | *The Nutcracker* | 2 + 7:30 pm | Merrill Auditorium, 20 Myrtle St, Portland, ME | $22-$52 | 207.842.0800

FRIDAY 24

BOSTON BALLET | See listing for Thurs

SUNDAY 26

BOSTON BALLET | See listing for Thurs

TUESDAY 28

BOSTON BALLET | See listing for Thurs

LIT EVENTS

SATURDAY 25

"BREAKING BAGELS WITH THE BARDS" | 9 am | Au Bon Pain at Davis Square, 18-48 Holland St, Somerville | Free | bagelpoetry.blogspot.com
"OPEN BARK POETRY & MUSIC" | With Deborah M. Priestly | 8:15 pm | Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St, Cambridge | $3-$5 suggested donation | 617.354.5287

MONDAY 27

"STONE SOUP POETRY OPEN MIC" | 8 pm | Out of the Blue Gallery, 106 Prospect St, Cambridge | $4 | 617.354.5287

WEDNESDAY 29

BOSTON POETRY SLAM | With Michael Monroe | 8 pm | Cantab Lounge, 738 Mass Ave, Cambridge | $3 | 617.354.2685

TALKS

WEDNESDAY 29

"STORIES FROM A LIVING LEGEND" | With Trudie Lamb Richmond | Wed-Thurs 2 pm | Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center, 110 Pequot Trail, Mashantucket, CT | Free, with museum admission | 800.411.9671

THURSDAY 30

"STORIES FROM A LIVING LEGEND" | See listing for Wed

EVENTS

MONDAY 27

MAGIC AND BEYOND | One-man visual magic show featuring illusionist David Garrity | 10:30 am | Orpheum Theatre Foxboro, 1 School St, Foxborough | $8 | 508.543.2787

TUESDAY 28

CREATURE TEACHERS | Live exotic animal presentation | 10:30 am | Orpheum Theatre Foxboro, 1 School St, Foxborough | $8 | 508.543.2787

WEDNESDAY 29

BOSTON BUBBLE GUY | Interactive show about the science and fun of bubbles | 10:30 am | Orpheum Theatre Foxboro, 1 School St, Foxborough | $8 | 508.543.2787
NARRAGANSETT BEER'S 120TH-ANNIVERSARY CONCERT | Free beer and gear, raffle, meet the 'Gansett Girls and former NFL player Troy Brown, and hear music from Steve Smith and the Nakeds, the 'Mericans, and more | 7 pm | Met, 1005 Main St, Pawtucket, RI | $10 | 401.729.1005
NIGHTS AT THE MUSEUM | Visit the new Art of the Americas Wing and more free of charge | 4 pm | Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave, Boston | Free | 617.267.9300 or mfa.org

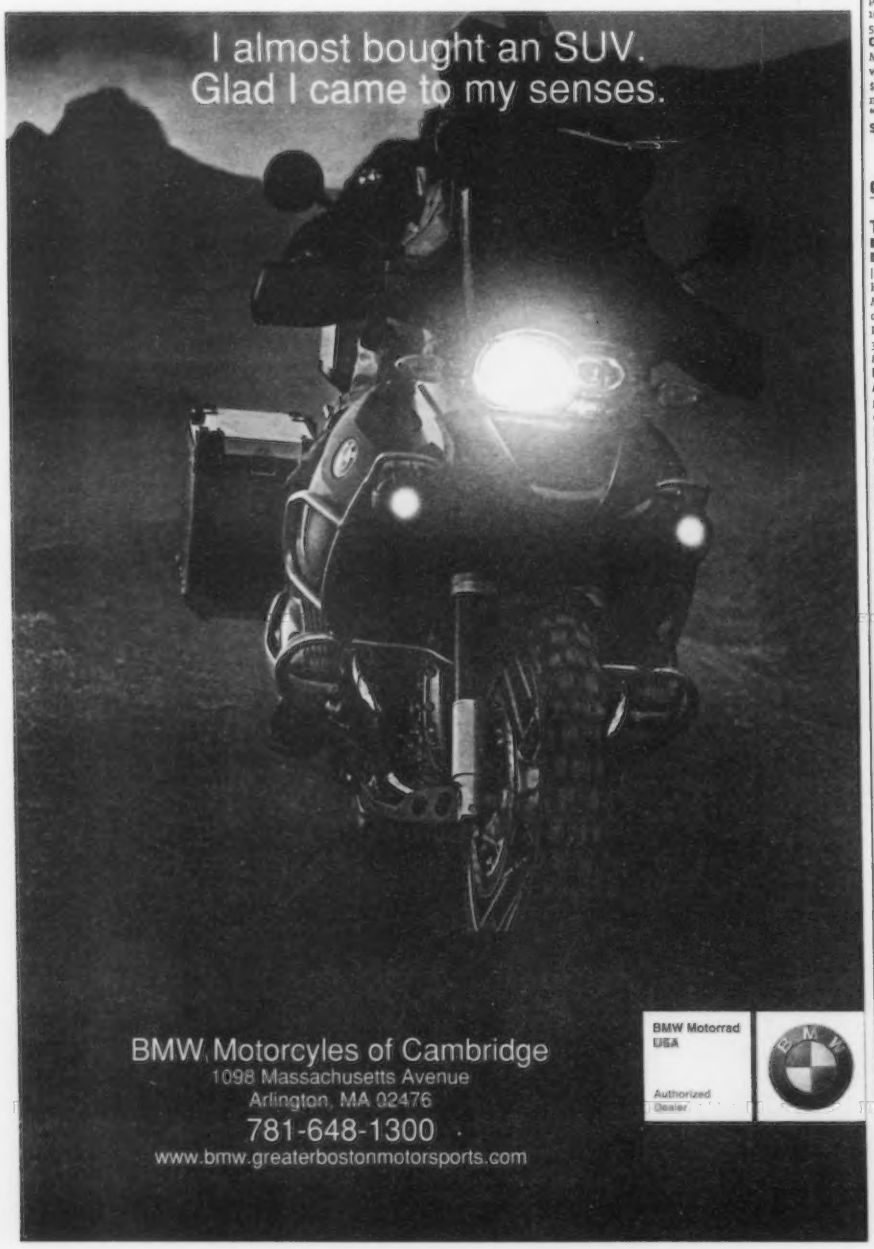
THURSDAY 30

DAVEY THE CLOWN | Interactive performance by one of Boston's best-known clowns | 10:30 am | Orpheum Theatre Foxboro, 1 School St, Foxborough | $8 | 508.543.2787

HOLIDAYS

THURSDAY 23

ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF ORNAMENTS | Coop artists present a wide array of handcrafted ornaments for the tree, the house, and the holiday | Through Dec 31 | Cambridge Artists



Cooperative, 59A Church St, Cambridge | Free | 617.868.44340
LOVE SEASONALLY | Comedy holiday musical | 8 pm | ImprovBoston Main Theater, 40 Prospect St, Cambridge | $16; $12 students, seniors | 617.576.1253 or improvboston.com
MISTLETOE 3 SEXY HOLIDAY PARTY | With DJ Lus + DJ Real P | 9:30 pm | Good Life, 28 Kingston St, Boston | no cover | 617.451.2622
T.T.'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY | With Corin Ashley, Dave Aaronoff, John Powhida, Marc Pinansky, Three Day Threshold, Summer Villains, Andrea Cillis, Eric Salt, Brendan Little, M. Holland, Dan Baker, Hilken Mancini, Tom Janovitz, Auto Interiors, and Naked on Roller Skates | 8 pm | T.T. the Bear's Place, 10 Brookline St, Cambridge | 617.492.2327 or ttthebears.com
ZOOLIGHTS | Visit with animals and Santa and enjoy the light display | Daily 5-9 pm | Stone Zoo, 149 Pond St, Stoneham | $5-$6 | 617.989.2760

FRIDAY 24
CELEBRATE THE SEASON DINNER | Executive chef Mark Porcaro designs a special Christmas dinner menu, with entertainment provided by the Steve Soares Trio | 4 pm | Top of the Hub, Prudential Center, 800 Boylston St, Boston | $75 | 617.536.1775
J BALL | The J Connection offers a Christmas Eve night out for professionals of all ages: a "20s/30s Rock Star Party" at Estate and a "40+ Dance Party" upstairs at the Kiki Lounge | 8 pm | Estate, 1 Boylston Pl, Boston | $30; $25 advance | 617.351.7000
MATZO BALL | Holiday Jewish singles meet-up event | 8 pm | Royale, 279 Tremont St, Boston | $30 | 617.338.7699 or matzoball.org
ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF ORNAMENTS | See listing for Thurs
HOLIDAY SALE | See listing for Thurs
ZOOLIGHTS | See listing for Thurs

SATURDAY 25
CHRISTMAS BRUNCH | Special holiday dishes served with a complimentary mimosa or cider and visits from Santa and holiday carolers | 10:30 am | Langham Hotel Boston, 250 Franklin St, Boston | $70 | 617.451.1900
"RICK VALLES & STEVE BOROS HOLIDAY SHOW" | Sat 7:30 pm; Sun 8:30 pm | Comix at Foxwoods, 350 Trolley Line Blvd, Mashantucket, CT | $20; $25 advance | 860.312.6649
"RONNIE SPECTOR'S BEST CHRISTMAS EVER" | 8 pm | Wolf Den at Mohegan Sun, 1 Mohegan Sun Blvd, Uncasville, CT | 888.226.7711
ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF ORNAMENTS | See listing for Thurs

SUNDAY 26
SUNDAY BRUNCH WITH HOLIDAY CAROLERS | Executive chef Mark Sapienza's favorite holiday dishes, plus songs and a visit from Santa | 11 am | Langham Hotel Boston, 250 Franklin St, Boston | $58 | 617.451.1900
"TWAS THE NIGHT AFTER XMAS PART 5" | With Masstapeace and Elemental Zazen | 9 pm | Middle East upstairs, 472 Mass Ave, Cambridge | $10 | 617.864.EAST or mideastclub.com
ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF ORNAMENTS | See listing for Thurs
"RICK VALLES & STEVE BOROS HOLIDAY SHOW" | See listing for Sat
ZOOLIGHTS | See listing for Thurs

MONDAY 27
ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF ORNAMENTS | See listing for Thurs
ZOOLIGHTS | See listing for Thurs

TUESDAY 28
ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF ORNAMENTS | See listing for Thurs
ZOOLIGHTS | See listing for Thurs

WEDNESDAY 29
ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF ORNAMENTS | See listing for Thurs
ZOOLIGHTS | See listing for Thurs

THURSDAY 30
ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF ORNAMENTS | See listing for Thurs
ZOOLIGHTS | See listing for Thurs

GAY & LESBIAN

THURSDAY 23
CRUSH | Lesbian dance party with DJ Maryalice and DJ Super Squirrel | 10 pm | Caprice Lounge, 275 Tremont St, Boston | $8 | 617.292.0080
JACQUES' ANGELS | With Kris Knievil, Melinda Wilson, and special guests | 10:30 pm | Jacque's Cabaret, 79 Broadway, Boston | $6 | 617.426.8902
MANDANCE | With DJ Dan Leavy spinning electro and trance | 10 pm | Ramrod, 1254 Boylston St, Boston | Free | 617.266.2986
NO COVER THURSDAYS | Thursday-night dance party with DJ Aga and VJ Rompy | 10 pm | Club Café, 209 Columbus Ave, Boston | Free | 617.536.0966
QUEERAOKE | Dancing, singing, costumes, and Women's Dance Night with DJ Summer's Eve | 10 pm | Midway Café, 3496 Washington St, Jamaica Plain | $5 | 617.524.9038
UPPEREAST AT OM | 10 pm | Om Restaurant & Lounge, 92 Winthrop St, Cambridge | $5 | 617.576.2800

FRIDAY 24
BEARS IN THE BACKROOM | Strict dress code enforced, with DJ Danae Jacovidis | 10 pm | Ramrod, 1254 Boylston St, Boston | $10 | 617.266.2986

SATURDAY 25
LEATHER NIGHT OUT | With DJ Duo Freespace | 10 pm | Ramrod, 1254 Boylston St, Boston | $10 | 617.266.2986

SUNDAY 26
CLUB CLASSICS | DJ Ace Boogie spinning disco, '80s, '70s, and more | 10 pm | Ramrod, 1254 Boylston St, Boston | Free | 617.266.2986

MONDAY 27
DIRTY SEXY MONDAY | DSM Divas and DJ Susan Esthera host drag comedy show | 10 pm | Machine, 1256 Boylston St, Boston | $12 | 617.818.1929
ATTIC | DJ Kuro spinning '90s, retro, and glam | 10 pm | Ramrod, 1254 Boylston St, Boston | $10 | 617.266.2986

TUESDAY 28
VICE | DJ Sun One spinning a mix of hip-hop, dance, and electro | 10 pm | Ramrod, 1254 Boylston St, Boston | Free | 617.266.2986

WEDNESDAY 29
HUMP! | Dance music from DJ Mike Ciller flanked by go-go dancers | 10 pm | Ramrod, 1254 Boylston St, Boston | Free | 617.266.2986

THURSDAY 30
CRUSH | See listing for previous Thurs
JACQUES' ANGELS | See listing for previous Thurs
NO COVER THURSDAYS | See listing for previous Thurs
QUEERAOKE | See listing for previous Thurs
UPPEREAST AT OM | See listing for previous Thurs

BENEFITS

THURSDAY 23
"BOSTON ROCKS" TO BENEFIT THE MUSIC AND YOUTH INITIATIVE | Concert featuring Keep Me Conscious, Mellow Bravo, Tijuana Sweetheart, and Billy Brown | 8 pm | Hard Rock Café, 22-24 Clinton St, Boston | $10 | musicandyouth.org
"MAKE NOISE 2" TO BENEFIT SAMARITANS INC. | Dance with music provided by DJs Joe Bermudez and Davis Ballard | 6 pm | House of Blues, 36 Lansdowne St, Boston | $10-$15 | 800.745.3000 or ticketmaste.com

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MORE ART LISTINGS + "ATTRACTIONS" AT THEPHOENIX.COM

Art Listings

PAMELA MURPHY'S *DEBATE* is part of the current group show at Chase Young Gallery.

GALLERIES

Admission to the following galleries is free, unless otherwise noted. In addition to the hours listed here, many galleries are open by appointment.

ACME FINE ART | 617.585.9551 | 38 Newbury St, Boston | acmefineart.com | Tues-Sat 11 am–5:30 pm, and by appointment | Through Dec 23: John Grillo: "The Mosaic Paintings"

ADDISON GALLERY OF AMERICAN ART | 978.749.4015 | Phillips Academy, 180 Main St, Andover | andover.edu/addison | Tues-Sat 10 am–5 pm; Sun 1-5 pm | Through Feb 11: "Sheila Hicks: 50 Years"

ARLINGTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS | 781.648.6220 | 41 Foster St, Arlington | acarts.org | Mon-Fri 9 am–5 pm | Through Jan 15: "Taking Off" Juried Student Exhibition

ARS LIBRI | 617.357.5212 | 500 Harrison Ave, Boston | arslibri.com | Mon-Fri 9 am-6 pm; Sat 11 am–5 pm | Through Jan 31: "Master Drawings from the Peter A. Wick Collection"

ARSENAL CENTER FOR THE ARTS | 617.923.0100 | 321 Arsenal St, Watertown | arsenalarts.org | Tues-Sun noon-6 pm | Through Jan 8: Amy Ross, Deborah Brand, and Yuko Adachi: "Biomorphia"

BETH URDANG GALLERY | 617.424.5550 | 129 Newbury St, Boston | bethurdanggallery.com | Tues-Sun 10:30 am–5:30 pm | Through Jan 15: "Black & White: 1915–2010"

BOSTON ATHENÆUM | 617.227.0270 | 10 1/2 Beacon St, Boston | bostonathenaeum.org | Mon 9 am–8 pm; Tues-Fri 9 am–5:30 pm; Sat 9 am–4 pm | Through Jan 8: "Five by Five: Paintings from the Collection"

BOSTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS | 617.933.8600 | 527-551 Tremont St, Boston | bcaonline.org | Wed + Sun noon–5 pm; Thurs-Sat noon–9 pm | Through Jan 2: "Southern Exposure: Artadia Awardees 2009 Atlanta"

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY | 617.536.5400 | 700 Boylston St, Boston | bpl.org | Mon-Thurs 9 am–9 pm; Fri-Sat 9 am–5 pm; Oct-May open Sun 1-5 pm | Through March 31: "Greetings from Boston: Vintage Postcards"

BOSTON SCULPTORS GALLERY | 617.482.7781 | 486 Harrison Ave, Boston | bostonsculptors.com | Wed-Sun noon-6 pm | Through Dec 24: "Sculpture Scoop" group sale

BOSTON UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY | 617.353.4672 | 855 Comm Ave, Boston | bu.edu/art | Tues-Fri 10 am–5 pm; Sat-Sun 1-5 pm | Through Jan 16: Harold Reddicliffe: "Paintings from Three Decades"

CAC GALLERY | 617.349.4380 | 344 Broadway, Cambridge | cambridgema.gov/cac | Mon + Wed 8:30 am–8 pm; Tues + Thurs 8:30 am–5 pm; Fri 8:30 am-noon | Through Feb 18: "Drawing in Public"

CAMBRIDGE ART ASSOCIATION | 617.876.0246 | 25 Lowell St, Cambridge | cambridgeart.org | Lowell St: Tues-Sat 11 am–5 pm; Mount Auburn St: Mon-Fri 9 am-6 pm, Sat 9 am–1 pm | Through Jan 12: "Blue: it's more than a color, metaphor, feeling, idea, or hue" [both galleries]

CAROL SCHLOSBERG ALUMNI GALLERY AT MONTSERRAT | 978.921.4242 X3 | Montserrat College of Art, 23 Essex St, Beverly | montserrat.edu | Mon-Thurs 10 am–5 pm; Fri 10 am–1 pm | Through Dec 23: "Viterbo"

CARPENTER CENTER FOR THE VISUAL ARTS | 617.495.3251 | 24 Quincy St, Cambridge | ves.fas.harvard.edu | Mon-Sat 9 am–11 pm; Sun noon-11pm | Through Dec 23: "The Image in Question: War Media Art"

CHASE YOUNG GALLERY | 617.859.7222 | 450 Harrison Ave #57, Boston | chaseyounggallery.com | Tues-Sat 11 am-6 pm; Sun 11 am–4 pm | Through Dec 24: "Winter Group Show"

COPLEY SOCIETY OF ART | 617.536.5049 | 158 Newbury St, Boston | copleysociety.org | Tues-Sat 11 am–6 pm; Sun noon–5 pm | Through Dec 23: "Holiday Small Works"

DIGITAL SILVER IMAGING | 617.489.0035 | 11 Brighton St, Belmont | digitalsilverimaging.com | Mon-Fri 9 am–5:30 pm | Through Jan 14: Jonathan Stark: "France: Chaleur"

FORT POINT ARTS COMMUNITY GALLERY | 617.423.4299 | 300 Summer St, Boston | fortpointarts.org | Mon-Wed 9 am–3 pm; Thurs-Fri 9 am–9 pm | Through Dec 29: Chris Joy and Zachary Keeting: "Dating Gorky's Granddaughter"

FROM RUSSIA WITH ART | 1977 Mass Ave, Cambridge | fromrussiawithart.org | Wed-Sun 10:30 am–7 pm | Through Jan 31: Alexander Vetrov, Stanislav Nikireev, and Irina Makoveeva | Through Feb 13: Alexander Korman: "en plein air"

GALATEA FINE ART | 617.542.1500 | 460B Harrison Ave, Boston | galateaart.org | Wed-Fri noon–6 pm; Sat-Sun noon–5 pm | Through Dec 30: Katherine Downey Miller: "Moving Through Light"

LA GALERÍA AT VILLA VICTORIA CENTER FOR THE ARTS | 617.927.1717 | 85 West Newton St, Boston | villavictoriaarts.org/gallery.html | Thurs-Fri 4-7 pm; Sat 1-4 pm | Through Dec 23: "Paredes En Fuego: The 2010 IBA-Cacique Youth Art Show"

GALLERY 360 | 617.373.2000 | Northeastern University, 360 Huntington Ave, Boston | northeastern.edu/northeasternmcreates/gallery360 | Mon-Fri 10 am–7 pm | Through March 24: Russell duPont: "On the Streets"

GALLERY AT THE PIANO FACTORY | 617.817.6600 | 791 Tremont St, Boston | galleryatthepianofactory.org | Fri 6-8 pm; Sat-Sun noon–5 pm | Through Jan 2: Allan Rohan Crite: "Christmas in His Neighborhood with a Friend"

GALLERY KAYAFAS | 617.482.0411 | 450 Harrison Ave, Boston | gallerykayafas.com | Tues-Sat 11 am–5:30 pm | Through Jan 15: Brian Doan: "They Aren't Ugly" ["Special Edition Books with Photographs"

GRAND CIRCLE GALLERY | 617.346.6459 | 347 Congress St, Boston | Wed + Fri 11 am-2 pm; Thurs 11 am-7 pm; Sat 11 am-3 pm | Through Jan 15: "Going Places"

GURARI COLLECTIONS | 617.367.9800 | 460 Harrison Ave, Boston | Tues-Sat 11 am-6:30 pm; Sun noon–5 pm or by appointment | Through Jan 15: Joan Brigham: "Automata — Energy in Motion"

HALEY HOUSE BAKERY CAFE | 617.445.0900 | 12 Dade St, Roxbury | haleyhouse.org | Mon-Wed + Fri 7:30 am–4 pm; Thurs 7:30 am–9 pm; Sat 9 am–3 pm | Through Dec 31: Lolita Parker Jr.: "Time Out: The Good Kind"

HAMILL GALLERY OF TRIBAL ART | 617.734.1577 | 2164 Washington St, Brookline | hamillgallery.com | Thurs-Sat noon–6 pm | Through Dec 30: José Ramón Bas: "Once upon a Time" | Susan Burbridge: "GroceriesAK"

HARBORARTS OUTDOOR GALLERY | 256 Marginal St, East Boston | harborarts.net | Open 24 hours | Through Dec 31: "Hazards of Modern Living" Public Art Installation

KINGSTON GALLERY | 617.423.4113 | 450 Harrison Ave, Boston | kingstongallery.com | Wed-Sun noon– 5 pm | Through Jan 2: Mary Bucci McCoy: "Trace" | Rose Olson: "Waking in the Blue"

LAMONTAGNE GALLERY | 617.464.4640 | 555 East Second St, South Boston | lamontagnegallery.com | Wed-Sat noon–6 pm | Through Jan 15: Boru O'Brien O'Connell: "More Information Has Been Transmitted via the Telegraph" | Meredith James: "The Invention of Morel Pages 81-86"

MIT LIST VISUAL ARTS CENTER | 617.253.4860 | 20 Ames St, Cambridge | web.mit.edu/lvac | Daily noon–6 pm | Through Jan 2: Emily Wardill: "Gamekeepers Without Game" | Frances Stark: "This could become a gimick [sic] or an honest articulation of the workings of the mind" | Melvin Moti: "The Prisoner's Cinema"

MIT MEDIA LAB | 617.253.4481 | 75 Amherst St, Cambridge | Mon-Fri 8:30 am–5 pm | Through Feb 23: Attila Csörgö: "AR — Artistic Research"

MIT ROTCH LIBRARY | 617.258.5590 | 77 Mass Ave, Cambridge | libraries.mit.edu/rotch | Through Jan 28: "Re-imagining Gaza and Youth Visions of Jerusalem"

MIT STUDENT CENTER | 617.484.3267 | 34 Mass Ave, Cambridge | Through Dec 31: "Shooting from the Hips, the Eyes, and the Heart"

MONTSERRAT GALLERY | 978.921.4242 | Montserrat College of Art, 23 Essex St, Beverly | montserrat.edu | Through Jan 22: "On Location: Drawing Every Day"

PANOPTICON GALLERY | 617.267.8929 | 502c Comm Ave, Boston | panopticongallery.com | Tues-Sat 10 am–5:30 pm and by appointment | Through Jan 4: Neal Rantoul: "Twenty-Five Years" | Roger Farrington: "30th-Anniversary John Lennon Portfolio"

PHOTOGRAPHIC RESOURCE CENTER AT BOSTON UNIVERSITY | 617.975.0600 | 832 Comm Ave, Boston | bu.edu/prc | Tues-Fri 10 am–5 pm; Sat-Sun noon–5 pm | Through Jan 9: "Then/Now: Photographs by Carl Chiarenza and Chris Enos"

PROOF GALLERY | 508.963.9102 | 516 East Second St, Boston | proof-gallery.com | Thurs-Sat noon–5 pm and by appointment | Through Jan 29: "Boston Does Boston IV"

PUCKER GALLERY | 617.267.6473 | 171 Newbury St, Boston | puckergallery.com | Mon-Sat 10 am–5:30 pm; Sun 10:30 am–5 pm | Through Jan 10: Chana Orloff: "Sculpture" | David Sharir: "Sharir's Psalms"

RIVERSIDE GALLERY | 617.547.6811 | 5 Callender St, Cambridge | Mon-Fri 9 am-2 pm; Sun noon–4 pm | Through Jan 9: "Small Works Gallery"

SEAN BOYCE STUDIOS | 508.524.2894 | 162 Newbury St, Boston | seanboycestudios.com | Thurs-Sat noon–5:30pm; Sun noon–5 pm | Through Dec 31: Marc Morin and Sean Boyce: "Concept and Reaction"

SOPRAFINA GALLERY | 617.728.0770 | 55 Thayer St, Boston | Wed-Sat 11 am–5:30 pm or by appointment | Through Dec 31: Dido Thayer: "Reconstructed Landscape"

13FOREST GALLERY | 781.641.3333 | 167A Mass Ave, Arlington | 13forest.com | Tues-Wed + Sat 11 am–7 pm; Thu-Fri 11 am–8 pm | Through Jan 28: "Plenty"

WASHINGTON STREET ART CENTER | 617.623.5315 | 321 Washington St, Somerville | washingtonst.org | Sat noon–4 pm | Through Dec 29: Jerry Pisani: "Un-Structured"

MUSEUMS

ART COMPLEX MUSEUM | 781.934.5634 | 189 Alden St, Duxbury | artcomplex.org | Wed-Sun 1-4 pm | Free admission | Through Jan 16: Ando Hiroshige: "Rotations" | "Simply Shaker" | Through Feb 13: "Darkness Darkness"

CAPE COD MUSEUM OF ART | 508.385.4477 | Rte 6A, Dennis | cmfa.org | Mon-Sat 10 am–5 pm; Thurs 10 am-8 pm; Sun noon–5 pm | Admission $8; free for ages under 18; admission by donation Thurs | Through Jan 2: "The Art of Cape Cod — 200 Years"

CHARLES RIVER MUSEUM OF INDUSTRY AND INNOVATION | 781.893.5410 | 154 Moody St, Waltham | Thurs-Sun 10 am–5 pm | Admission $5; $3 students, seniors | Through May 10: "Steampunk: Form and Function"

DANFORTH MUSEUM OF ART | 508.620.0050 | 123 Union Ave, Framingham | danforthmuseum.org | Wed-Thurs + Sun noon–5 pm; Fri-Sat 10 am–5 pm | Admission $11; $9 seniors; $8 students; free to youth under 17 | Through Jan 23: Salley Mavors: "Pocketful of Posies" | Through Feb 6: Brice Marden | Carol Keller: "Erratics in the Wood" | Jules Aarons: "Into the Streets: Photographs from the West End" | Nathan Goldstein | Rhoda Rosenberg: "The Shape of Memory" | Sachiko Akiyama: "Things Unseen"

DeCORDOVA SCULPTURE PARK AND MUSEUM | 781.259.8355 | 51 Sandy Pond Rd, Lincoln | decordova.org | Tues-Sun 10 am–5 pm | Admission $12; $8 students, seniors, and youth ages 6-18; free to Lincoln residents and children under 5 | Sculpture park is open during daylight hours and free to the public | Through Jan 9: Leonardo Drew: "Existed" | Martha Friedman: "Rubbers" | Type A: "Barrier" | Through April 23: "Platform 5: Paul Bartow and Richard Metzgar"

FULLER CRAFT MUSEUM | 508.588.6000 | 455 Oak St, Brockton | fullermuseum.org | Tues-Sun 10 am–5 pm; Wed 10 am–9 pm | Admission $8; $5 students, seniors; free for members and children under 12, and for all from 5 to 9 pm on Wed | Through Jan 2: Josh Simpson: "A Visionary Journey in Glass" | Through Jan 23: "Photo Clay: In the Picture with Warren Mather" | Through Feb 6: "The New Materiality: Digital Dialogues at the Boundaries of Contemporary Craft" | Through Feb 27: "Different Lines" | Through March 27: John Garrett: "Caravan"

GRIFFIN MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY | 781.729.1158 | 67 Shore Rd, Winchester | griffinmuseum.org | Tues-Thurs 11 am–5 pm; Fri 11 am–4 pm, and on Sat and Sun from noon to 4 pm | Admission $5; $2 seniors; free for children and students and on Thurs | Through Jan 23: Jason Landry: "The Collectors" | Laurie Lambrecht: "From the Studio of Roy Lichtenstein" | Through Jan 30: Harvey Stein: "Artists Observed 1980–1985"

HARVARD ART MUSEUMS | 617.495.9400 | 485 Broadway, Cambridge | harvardartmuseums.org | Tues-Sat 10 am–5 pm | Admission $9; $7 seniors; $6 students | Through Jan 15: "Teaching Galleries" | Ongoing: "Re-View" [overview of works from the Harvard Art Museum's Fogg, Busch-Reisinger, and Arthur M. Sackler museums]

HARVARD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY | 617.495.3045 | 26 Oxford St, Cambridge | hmnh.harvard.edu | Daily 9 am–5 pm | Admission $9; $7 seniors; $6 students; free for ages 3 and under; free for Mass residents Sun 9 am–noon | Through Jan 2: "Headgear: The Natural History of Horns and Antlers" | Through May: "The Language of Color" | Ongoing: "The Glass Flowers"

INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART | 617.478.3100 | 100 Northern Ave, Boston | icaboston.org | Tues-Wed + Sat-Sun 10 am–5 pm; Thurs-Fri 10 am–9 pm | Admission $15; $10 students, seniors; free for ages under 17; free after 5 pm on "Target Free Thursday Nights" | Through Jan 17: 2010 James and Audrey Foster Prize | Through March 13: Mark Bradford | Through Aug 14: Francesca DiMattio: "Banquet"

MASSACHUSETTS MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART | 413.662.2111 | 87 Marshall St, North Adams | massmoca.org | Wed-Mon 11 am–5 pm | Admission $15; $11 students; $5 ages 6-16; free for ages 5 and under | Through Dec 31: "Disfarmer Photos" | Through Jan 2: Leonard Nimoy: "Secret Selves" | Through Feb 27: "Color Forms I" | Through Feb 28: "Material World: Sculpture to Environment" | Petah Coyne: "Everything That Rises Must Converge" | Through May 1: Jörg Immendorff: "Student of Beuys" | Through March 31, 2012: Federico Diaz: "Geometric Death Frequency-149"

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS | 617.267.6008 | 465 Huntington Ave, Boston | mfa.org | Mon-Tues + Sat-Sun 10 am–4:45 pm; Wed-Fri 10 am–9:45 pm | Admission $20; $18 seniors and students 18 and older; $7.50 children ages 7-17 weekdays before 3 pm; free to members and children under 7 | Through Dec 31: "Preserving History, Making History: The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston" | Through Jan 2: "Under the Skin: Tattoos in Japanese Prints" | Through Jan 16: "Romantic Interludes: Women in Firdawsi's *Shahnama*" | Through Jan 17: "Avedon Fashion 1944–2000" | "Luxuries from Japan: Cultural Exchange in the 17th and 18th Centuries" | Through Feb 13: "Fresh Ink: Ten Takes on Chinese Tradition" | Through Feb 27: "Chinese Master Paintings from the Collection" | Through March 6: "Mirror of Holland: Drawings from the Maida and George Abrams Collection" | Through March 13: "Embroideries of Colonial Boston: Samplers" | Through March 27: "Kristin Baker: New Paintings" | Through May 1: "Heaven and Hell in Japanese Art" | "New Works: Prints, Drawings, Collages" | "Nicholas Nixon: Family Album" | Through May 30: "Millet and Rural France" | Through June 19: "Scaasi: American Couturier" | Through June 25: "Artists Abroad: London, Paris, Venice, and Rome 1825–1925" | Through July 2: "Modernist Photography 1910–1950"

NATIONAL CENTER OF AFRO-AMERICAN ARTISTS | 617.442.8614 | 300 Walnut Ave, Boston | ncaaa.org | Tues-Sun 1-5 pm | Admission $4; $3 seniors, students | Through Feb 28: Theresa India Young: "Sketches of Ghana"

NEWPORT ART MUSEUM AND ART ASSOCIATION | 401.848.8205 | 76 Bellevue Ave, Newport, RI | newportartmuseum.org | Tues-Sat 10 am–4 pm; Sun noon–4 pm | Admission $10 adults; $8 seniors; $6 students and military personnel with ID; free for children 5 and under | Through Jan 2: "The Abstract of Realism: Gaucher-Thomas, Riley, Simpson" | Through Jan 9: Kim Salerno: "Big Miniature" | "Photographers' Guild Members' Exhibition"

NORMAN ROCKWELL MUSEUM | 413.298.4100 | 9 Glendale Rd, Rte 183, Stockbridge | nrm.org | Weekdays 10 am-4 pm; weekends 10 am–5 pm | Admission $15; $10 students with ID; $13.50 seniors; free for ages 18 and under when accompanied by an adult | Through May 30: "Witness: The Art of Jerry Pinkney"

PEABODY ESSEX MUSEUM | 978.744.3390 | 137 Essex St, Salem | pem.org | Tues-Sun and Mon holidays 10 am–5 pm | Admission $15; $13 seniors; $11 students; free for ages 16 and under | Through Dec 31: "Fish, Silk, Tea, Bamboo: Cultivating an Image of China" | Through Jan 2: Mark Ruwedel: "Imprints" | Through Jan 9: "The Emperor's Private Paradise: Treasures from the Forbidden City" | Through April 23: Charles Sandison: "FreePort [No. 001]" | Through May 1: "Eye Spy, Playing with Perception" | Through Jan 1, 2012: "Painting the Modern in India" | Through Jan 16, 2012: "Faces of Devotion, Indian Sculpture from the Figiel Collection" | Through March 1, 2012: "Auspicious Wishes and Natural Beauty in Korean Art" | "Of Gods and Mortals, Traditional Art from India" | Through Sept 30, 2012: "Written on the Waves: Shipboard Logs and Journals"

PEABODY MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND ETHNOLOGY | 617.496.1027 | 11 Divinity Ave, Cambridge | peabody.harvard.edu | Daily 9 am–5 pm | Admission $9; $7 students, seniors; free to members, Harvard students, and children under 3; also free to all Massachusetts residents Wed 3-5 pm and Sun 9 am–noon | Through Jan 2: "Spying on the Past: Declassified Satellite Images and Archaeology" | Through March 31: "Masked Festivals of Canton Bo, Southwest Ivory Coast" | Through June 30: "Translating Encounters: Travel and Transformation in the Early Seventeenth Century" | Through July 31: "Digging Veritas: The Archaeology and History of the Indian College and Student Life at Colonial Harvard" | "Storied Walls: Murals of the Americas" | Through Dec 31, 2011: "Wiyohpiyata: Lakota Images of the Contested West"

RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN MUSEUM | 401.454.6500 | 224 Benefit St, Providence, RI | risdmuseum.org | Tues-Sun 10 am–5 pm; third Thurs per month until 9 pm | Admission $10; $7 seniors; $3 college students and youth ages 5-18; free every Sun 10 am–1 pm, the third Thurs of each month 5-9 pm, and the last Sat of the month | Through Jan 9: Lynda Benglis | Through Feb 28: Brian Knep: "Exemplia" | Through Feb 28: "The Figure: Contemporary Works from the Collection" | Through March 10: "Collision" | Through April 16: "Kutch Quilts from South Asia" | Through April 16: "Prints for the Japanese New Year" | Through June 4: "Changing Poses: The Artist's Model" | Through June 4: "From Dover to Penzance: Watercolor Views of the English Channel"

ROSE ART MUSEUM AT BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY | 781.736.3434 | 415 South St, Waltham | brandeis.edu/rose | Tues-Sun noon–5 pm | Admission $3 | Through May 22: "Regarding Painting"

STERLING AND FRANCINE CLARK ART INSTITUTE | 413.458.2303 | 225 South St, Williamstown | clarkart.edu | Tues-Sun 10 am–5 pm | Through March 13: "The Strange World of Albrecht Dürer"

WORCESTER ART MUSEUM | 508.799.4406 | 55 Salisbury St, Worcester | worcesterart.org | Wed-Fri, Sun 11 am–5 pm; Sat 10 am–5 pm; third Thurs of every month 11 am–8 pm | Through March 31: Édouard Manet's "The Dead Toreador"

ART'S NOT DEAD For Boston's most complete guide to what's new at museums, galleries, and beyond, scan the code — or visit http://bit.ly/ArtsNotDead for full museum and gallery listings.

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Play by Play

Kelby T. Atkin in *The Understudy*

OPENING

ARTICULATION | Company One presents, in association with First Night, its spoken-word variety show, with "poems and sketches about love, abuse, expectations, racism, violence, betrayal." It's all written and performed by poets and musicians; the current cast includes Danny Balel, Tory Bullock, Michael Cognata, Terri Deletetsky, Marvelyn McFarlane, DJ Reazon, and Nik Walker. | December 31 | Hynes Convention Center, 900 Boylston St, Boston | $15-$18 [First Night button] | firstnight.org

THE PRETENDER | Filmmaker Aaron Brown and musician Cass McCombs present their multimedia musical collaboration for First Night attendees, a classic morality tale set in the present-day American West. | December 31 | Modern Theatre at Suffolk University, 525 Washington St, Boston | $15-$18 [First Night button] | firstnight.org

RUINED | Liesl Tommy directs the Huntington Theatre staging of Lynn Nottage's Pulitzer-winning drama about a shrewd bar owner and madam named Mama Nadi (Tonye Patano) who uses her business savvy to survive the Congo civil war. The piece's title refers to women raped and assaulted so brutally that they can no longer bear children; society deems them "ruined." | January 7–February 6 | Boston University Theatre, 264 Huntington Ave, Boston| $30-$89; $15 student rush | 617.266.0800 or huntingtontheatre.org

A SHAKESPEAREAN CABARET | Commonwealth Shakespeare Company presents a night of songs inspired by Shakespeare, in association with First Night. The evening includes Purcell's "If Music Be the Food of Love," Schubert's "Who Is Sylvia?", Haydn's "She Never Told Her Love," Cole Porter's "I Hate Men!", and Leonard Bernstein's "Tonight." | December 31 | Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St, Boston| $15-$18 (First Night button) | firstnight.org

TRYST | Joe Brancato directs this Merrimack Rep staging of Karoline Leach's Edwardian London thriller about a golddigging con man skilled at seducing and duping wealthy women out of their riches. Our heartless hero's winning streak comes to a halt when he meets a lady who's too quick to fall for his usual tricks. | January 6-30 | Merrimack Repertory Theatre, 50 East Merrimack St, Lowell | $25-$32 | 978.654.4678 or merrimackrep.org

THE UNDERSTUDY | Larry Coen directs Lyric Stage's Boston premiere of Theresa Rebeck's play about a Hollywood action star attempting to prove his acting chops by starring in a serious Broadway production. Kelby T. Atkin plays the former film star, with Christopher James Webb as an out-of-work actor and Laura Latreille as the reluctant stage manager. | January 1-29 | Lyric Stage Company of Boston, 140 Clarendon Street, Boston | $25-$52 | 617.585.5678 or lyricstage.com

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NEW YEAR'S EVE? | Kathy St. George presents a one-woman cabaret that will include Great American Songbook classics, Broadway hits, songs made famous by Judy Garland, and her own sketch "*The Wizard of Oz* in Ten Minutes." Jim Rice conducts the band. | December 31 | Stoneham Theatre, 395 Main St, Stoneham | $44-$48 | 781.279.2200 or stonehamtheatre.org

NOW PLAYING

THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER | Barbara Robinson's stage adaptation of her popular 1972 children's novel involves a bullying brood of rowdies commandeering the local Catholic church's Christmas pageant. When you hear Robinson's Herdmans excitedly described as "the worst kids in the world," you may expect guns and drugs. What you get are shoving and smoking — and the shoving is a hallmark of Chris Carcione's rambunctious, kid-friendly Stoneham staging. Kathy St. George phones in a zesty turn as the sidelined control-freak pageant director, who's laid up with her leg in traction behind a scrim disguised as a giant Christmas card. And Stacy Fischer makes a likable mom turned pageant impresario. But members of Stoneham's young company, playing both good seeds and bad, give the production a barreling amateurishness that's best suited to the carol-filled Nativity play, replete with angels in bedsheets and shepherds in bathrobes, that ends the show — mercifully, without Rockettes. | Through December 23 | Stoneham Theatre, 395 Main St, Stoneham | $38-$44; $20 students | 781.279.2200 or stonehamtheatre.org

THE BLUE FLOWER | This musical, 10 years in the making by husband-and-wife creators Jim and Ruth Bauer and given a gorgeously grungy sheen by the ART, began as a song cycle and grew into a startlingly original amalgam of music, artwork, text, and videography in which the play is definitely *not* the thing. In fact, this near-dialogue-less narrative suggested by the lives and times of German Expressionists Max Beckmann and Franz Marc, "dangerously unpredictable Dada girl" Hannah Höch, and Nobel-winning scientist Marie Curie is pretty wispy. Boy artist meets boy artist, and both fall in love with a beautiful female scientist. She loves the one who dies; the one who lives takes up with a freewheeling female Dadaist who performs a couple of very cool, alienation-happy cabaret numbers. History ensues, and so does jealousy in what is described as a "love rectangle" threading its way through the show. Daniel Jenkins is the deep yet mousy Max, who shuts down after plowing through his bloody war and who responds to the rise of Nazidom by forsaking German for his personal "Maxperanto." As Franz, Lucas Kavner is all stony yearning, teamed with Teal Wicks's Maria on the delicate "Love" or riding the harsh yet lyrical wave of "Franz's War." Maria is perhaps the least developed character, but Wicks brings a mournful sensitivity and gorgeous pipes to the moving ballad "Eiffel Tower." And Meghan McGeary's Hannah snarls her way though some harshly whimsical cabaret setpieces, among them one in which she wears tattered wings while nailing projected bugs with a fly swatter. She may sleep with Max, but she's Dada's girl. | Through January 8 | Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle St, Cambridge | $25-$65 | 617.547.8300 or americanrepertorytheater.org

A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS IN WALES | Burgess Clark adapted the well-known Dylan Thomas story for the stage last season, and he's back to helm the production once more, in association with the Boston Playwrights' Theatre and the Boston Children's Theatre. | Through December 23 | Boston Center for the Arts, Plaza Theatre, 539 Tremont St, Boston | $35; $20 students | 617.353.5443 or bostontheatrescene.com

A CHRISTMAS CAROL | Trinity Repertory Company's annual rendition of Charles Dickens's holiday classic stars Mauro Hantman as Scrooge, Richard Williams as Bob Cratchit, Rachael Warren as the Ghost of Christmas Past, Jude Sandy and Joe Wilson Jr. as the Ghosts of Christmas Present, Matt Clevy as Marley, Monica Willey as Fan, and Madeleine Lambert as Belle. No mention of the third Spirit, so we're assuming the Ghost of Christmas Yet To Come will be playing itself. Michael Perlman directs. | Through December 31 | Trinity Repertory Company, 201 Washington St, Providence, RI | $12-$66 | 401.351.4242 or trinityrep.com

A CHRISTMAS CAROL | Jon Kimbell directs the North Shore Music Theatre's adaptation of Charles Dickens's classic Christmas story, with David Coffee as Scrooge, Tom Staggs as Marley, Maureen Brennan as the Ghost of Christmas Past, and Cheryl McMahon as Mrs. Dilber. | Through December 23 | North Shore Music Theatre, 62 Dunham Rd, Beverly | $35-$65 | 978.232.7200 or nsmt.org

THE CHRISTMAS REVELS | Revels observes the 40th anniversary of *The Christmas Revels* by taking us back to where this celebration of the winter solstice all started, the medieval manor of Haddon Hall in Derbyshire. With Patrick Swanson directing and George Emlen as music director, plus Mark Jaster, Sabrina Mandell, the Derbyshire Children, the Bakewell Village Band, the Saint George and the Dragon Mummers Play, the Pinewoods Morris Men, and the Cambridge Symphonic Brass Ensemble. | Through December 29 | Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St, Cambridge | $30-$52; $15-$42 children 11 and under | 617.972.8300 or revels.org

DARLING DIVAS DECK THE HOLIDAYS | Kate Warner directs New Rep's holiday cabaret, which has Michele A. DeLuca, Aimee Doherty, Kami Rushell Smith, and Bobbie Steinbach performing jazzed-up versions of popular carols. Todd C. Gordon is music director. | Through December 23 | Arsenal Center for the Arts, 321 Arsenal St, Watertown | $20-$25; $18 students | 617.923.8487 or newrep.org

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE: A LIVE RADIO PLAY | Curt Columbus and Tyler Dobrowsky direct this staged radio-play adaptation of Frank Capra's famed holiday film for Trinity Rep. Stephen Berenson, Angela Brazil, Timothy Crowe, Anne Scurria and Fred Sullivan Jr. will play more than 50 characters among them. | Through December 31 | Trinity Repertory Company, 201 Washington St, Providence, RI | $12-$66 | 401.351.4242 or trinityrep.com

JERSEY BOYS | Des McAnuff directs this Broadway Across America tour of the award-winning musical about '60 doo-woppers Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, with Emerson College alum Joseph Leo Bwarie as Frankie Valli. | Through January 30 | Colonial Theatre, 106 Boylston St, Boston | $43-$167 | 800.982.2787 or bostoncolonialtheatre.com

RADIO CITY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR | The Radio City Rockettes strut their stuff alongside oversized teddy beers, reindeer, and nutcrackers while Santa and his elves prepare for the biggest night of the year. | Through December 29 | Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St, Boston | $25-$130 | 866.348.9738 or citicenter.org/rockettes

THE SANTALAND DIARIES | Peter Davenport stars in the one-man show adapted by Joe Mantello from David Sedaris's autobiographical essay about his experience working as a Christmas elf in a Macy's department store. Artistic director Tony Simotes helms the Shakespeare & Company staging. | Through December 30 | Elayne P. Bernstein Theatre, 70 Kemble St, Lenox | $12-$48 | 413.637.3353 or shakespeare.org

THE SLUTCRACKER: A BURLESQUE | Vanessa White brings her sexy burlesque makeover of *The Nutcracker* to Somerville for the third year running. Young Clara has grown up a bit, and she's engaged to be married, but Auntie Drosselmeyer is concerned about her niece's lack of sexual experience, so she surprises Clara with the gift of an enchanted dildo. Former ballet dancers (including one-time *Nutcracker* stars) join burlesque performers across the show's two casts. | Through December 24 | Somerville Theatre, 55 Davis Square, Somerville | $20-$25 | 617.625.5700 or theslutcracker.com

STRIKING 12 | This ingeniously conceived but somewhat forced alternative holiday musical is the work of the pop trio GrooveLily, who debuted it in 2002 and continue to perform it. For SpeakEasy Stage Company, which offers the Boston premiere helmed by Scott Sinclair, a trio of local musicians not only tell the story — a mash-up of New Year's Eve bashing and Hans Christian Andersen — but also play GrooveLily. Which makes the show's alleged improvisational element ring false. That said, the cast and some of the songs are likable, and it's hard not to root for a holiday show in which the Tiny Tim figure freezes to death in a fit of hallucinogenic joy. The plot has Grumpy Guy (keyboardist and musical director José Delgado) deciding to bag New Year's Eve despite the admonitions of a party-throwing friend (drummer Zachary Hardy) and stay home "in my stocking feet with an ice-cold beer." There he's visited by a salesperson of full-spectrum holiday lights intended to combat seasonal affective disorder (electric-violinist Erikka Walsh). GrooveLily's Valerie Vigoda and Brendan Milburn collaborated on *Striking 12* with Rachel Sheinkin, who won a Tony for the book of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, so you can expect some cleverness, but the material is so slight that the performers have to push it. Despite their efforts and the presence of all those matches, *Striking 12* does not catch fire. | Through January 2 | Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts, 527 Tremont St, Boston | $25-$55 | 617.933.8600 or bostontheatrescene.com

PLAY BY PLAY For our complete weekly listings, from ART to Zeiterion, scan the code — or visit http://bit.ly/PlayByPlay for full theater listings.

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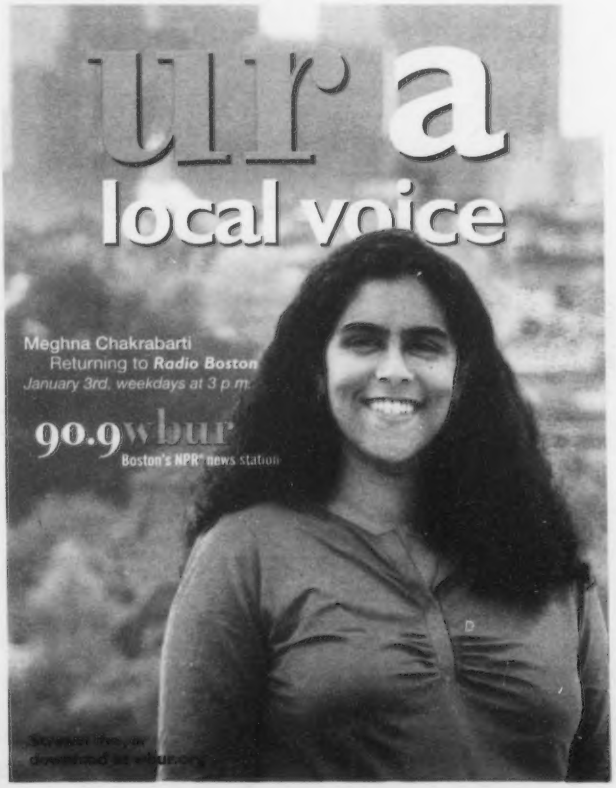

Film

Unless otherwise noted, all film listings here are for Friday December 24 through Thursday December 30. Particularly around Christmas, it's best to call the theater before heading out. For up-to-date film-schedule information, check the *Boston Phoenix* Web site at thephoenix.com.

RABBIT HOLE opens Saturday at the Boston Common and the Kendall Square.

BOSTON

BOSTON COMMON
175 Tremont St | 617.423.3499
GULLIVER'S TRAVELS 3D | 10:35 am, 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35, 9:55 | Fri-Sat: 12:15 am
LITTLE FOCKERS | 10:15 am, 1:10, 4:25, 7:20, 10:05 | Fri-Sat: 12:30 am
RABBIT HOLE | Sat-Thurs: 10:25 am, 12:55, 3:25, 5:40, 7:55, 10:20 | Sat: 12:35 am
TRUE GRIT | 10 am, 11:30 am, 12:45, 2:25, 3:30, 5:20, 6:15, 8:05, 9:30, 10:45 | Fri-Sat: 12:05 am
BLACK SWAN | 11:25 am, 2:10, 4:50, 7, 7:45, 9:20, 10:35
THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: THE VOYAGE OF THE DAWN TREADER | 10:45 am, 1:25, 4:15, 7:05, 9:45 | Fri-Sat: 12:25 am
FEI CHENG WU RAO II | 10:15 am, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15
THE FIGHTER | 10:30 am, 11:20 am, 12:25, 1:15, 2:20, 3:25, 4:05, 5:10, 6:10, 8, 9, 9:50, 10:50 | Fri-Sat: 11:45
HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS PART 1 | 11:10 am, 2:50 | Fri-Sat: 6:05, 11:55 | Sun-Thurs: 6:25
HOW DO YOU KNOW | 10:20 am, 1:15, 4:15, 7:10, 8:10, 10:10, 11:05
THE KING'S SPEECH | 10:50 am, 12:35, 1:45, 3:15, 4:40, 6, 7:50, 8:50, 10:40 | Fri-Sat: 11:35
TANGLED | 11:15 am, 2:15, 5:15
THE TOURIST | 10:10 am, 12:30, 3, 5:40, 8:15, 10:55
TRON: LEGACY 3D | 12:30, 3:20, 6:15, 9:15 | Fri-Sat: 12:10 am
TRON: LEGACY: AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE | 10:05 am, 1, 4, 7, 10
YOGI BEAR 3D | 10 am, 12:10, 2:30, 5, 7:15, 9:40 | Fri-Sat: 11:50

FENWAY
201 Brookline Ave | 617.424.6266
Please call to confirm bookings and for times
GULLIVER'S TRAVELS 3D
LITTLE FOCKERS
TRUE GRIT
THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: THE VOYAGE OF THE DAWN TREADER 3D
THE FIGHTER
HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS PART 1
HOW DO YOU KNOW
THE KING'S SPEECH
TANGLED 3D
THE TOURIST
TRON: LEGACY 3D
YOGI BEAR 3D

MUSEUM OF SCIENCE
Omni Theatre, Science Park, Boston | 617.723.2500 | $7.50, $5.50 for ages 3-11 and seniors: Tues-Wed 7 pm or later, $5, $3 for ages 3-11 and seniors
Please call for times
AWARDS
AUSTRALIA: LAND BEYOND TIME
THRILL RIDE: THE SCIENCE OF FUN
WHALES

NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM
Simons IMAX Theatre, Central Wharf, Boston | 866.815.IMAX | $12, $10 for ages 3-11 and seniors
Please call for times
DOLPHINS AND WHALES 3D
HUBBLE 3D
INCEPTION: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE
SEA REX: JOURNEY TO A PREHISTORIC WORLD
UNDER THE SEA 3D

STUART STREET PLAYHOUSE
200 Stuart St | 617.426.2190
Please call for times
LOVE & OTHER DRUGS
RACE TO NOWHERE
THE SOCIAL NETWORK

BROOKLINE

CHESTNUT HILL
Rte 9 and Hammond St | 617.277.2500
LITTLE FOCKERS | 11:15 am, 1:45, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50
THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: THE VOYAGE OF THE DAWN TREADER | 10 am, 12:30, 3:15, 6:30, 9:15
THE FIGHTER | 10:30 am, 1:30, 4:40, 7:30, 10:30
HOW DO YOU KNOW | 11 am, 2, 5, 8, 10:45
TRON: LEGACY IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D | 10 am, 1, 4, 7, 10

COOLIDGE CORNER
290 Harvard St | 617.734.2500
THE LEGEND OF PALE MALE | 12:10, 2:20, 4:40, 7
BLACK SWAN | noon, 2:30, 5, 7:30, 10 (no Fri)
BUDRUS | Fri: 2:10, 7:15
I LOVE YOU PHILLIP MORRIS | Fri: 11:40 am, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10 | Sat-Thurs: 11:45 am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
THE KING'S SPEECH | Sat-Thurs: 11 am, 2, 4:30, 7:10, 9:45
MADE IN DAGENHAM | Fri: 11:30 am 4:30 | Sat-Thurs: 9:15

CAMBRIDGE

BRATTLE
40 Brattle St., Harvard Square | 617.876.6837
THE GRAPES OF WRATH | Sat: 4:15, 7 | Sun: 4 | Sun-Mon: 6:30
EDWARD SCISSORHANDS | Sat: 9:30 | Sun: 1:45 | Sun-Mon: 9
LIFEBOAT | Tues: 7
KISS OF DEATH | Tues: 5, 9
THE BOSTON STRANGLER | Wed: 7
THE FRENCH CONNECTION | Wed: 4:45, 9:30
FIGHT CLUB | Thurs: 7
OFFICE SPACE | Thurs: 5, 9:45

FRESH POND
168 Alewife Brook Parkway | 617.661.2900
GULLIVER'S TRAVELS | Sat-Thurs: 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30
TRUE GRIT | 1:15, 4:15, 7:20, 9:50 | Fri: 7:45
THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: THE VOYAGE OF THE DAWN TREADER 3D | 1, 3:45, 6:45, 9:20
THE FIGHTER | 1, 4, 7:05, 7:45, 9:40 | Fri: 5:10
MEGAMIND | 1:05, 3:10
TANGLED 3D | Fri: 1:10, 3:45, 7, 9:20
TANGLED | 1:40, 4:30 | Sat-Thurs: 7
THE TOURIST | 1:20, 4:45, 7:25
UNSTOPPABLE | 9:40 | Fri: 7:25
YOGI BEAR | Fri: 1:15, 3:15, 5:20 | Sat-Thurs: 7:30, 9:30
YOGI BEAR 3D | 2:45, 4:45, 7, 9

HARVARD SQUARE
10 Church St | 617.864.4580
TRUE GRIT | Fri: 11 am, 1:30, 4, 6:30, 9 | Sat-Thurs: 11:10 am, 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10 | Sat: 12:30 am
THE FIGHTER | Fri: 12:15, 3, 5:45, 8:30 | Sat-Thurs: 10:50 am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20
HOW DO YOU KNOW | Fri: noon, 2:45, 5:30, 8:15 | Sat-Thurs: 10:30 am, 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:10
TRON: LEGACY 3D | Fri: 11:15 am, 2, 5, 8 | Sat-Thurs: 10:40 am, 1:50, 4:50, 7:40, 10:30
THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW | Sat: 12:15 am

KENDALL SQUARE
1 Kendall Square | 617.499.1996
ALL GOOD THINGS | 1:30, 4:10, 6:55 | Sun: 11:05 am
RABBIT HOLE | Sat-Thurs: 1:50, 4:30, 7:15, 9:50 | Sun: 11:15 am
RARE EXPORTS: A CHRISTMAS TALE | Fri: 1:45, 4:25, 7:10 | Sat-Thurs: 1:40, 4:40, 7:20, 9:35 | Sun: 11:25 am
SOMEWHERE | 1:35, 4:15, 7:05 | Sat-Thurs: 9:45 | Sun: 11:10 am
BHUTTO | Fri: 1:10, 6:50
BLACK SWAN | 1:05, 4:20, 6:15, 7 | Fri: 1:40 | Sat-Thurs: 1:45, 9:40 | Sun: 11:05 am
I LOVE YOU PHILLIP MORRIS | Fri: 3:50 | Sat-Thurs: 3:40, 9:15
INSIDE JOB | 1:20, 6:45
THE KING'S SPEECH | 1, 2, 3:45, 5, 6:40 | Sat-Thurs: 8, 9:30 | Sun: 11 am
127 HOURS | Fri: 3:55 | Sat-Thurs: 9:25
THE TEMPEST | Fri: 3:40 | Sat-Thurs: 3:50, 9:20

SUBURBS

ARLINGTON
Capitol, 204 Mass Ave | 781.648.4340
LITTLE FOCKERS | 12:45 [no Sat], 3 [no Sat], 5:15 [no Sat], 7:40 [no Fri], 9:50 [no Fri] | Fri: 7:15
HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS PART 1 | 1:15 [no Sat], 4:15 [no Sat], 7:45 [no Fri] | Fri: 7:10
HOW DO YOU KNOW | 1:45 [no Sat], 4:45 [no Sat], 7:30 [no Fri], 10 [no Fri] | Fri: 7:15
LOVE & OTHER DRUGS | 1:10 [no Sat], 4:30 [no Sat], 9:40 [no Fri]
THE SOCIAL NETWORK | 7:10
TRON: LEGACY IN DISNEY 3D | 1 [no Sat], 2 [no Sat], 4 [no Sat], 5 [no Sat], 7, 8 [no Fri], 9:45 [no Fri]

BRAINTREE
AMC X, South Shore Plaza | 781.848.1070
Please call for remaining times
LITTLE FOCKERS | Fri: 10 am, 12:30, 3, 5:30, 7:55, 10:20
TRUE GRIT | Fri: 10:20 am, 1:20, 4:20, 7:10, 10:05
THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: VOYAGE OF THE DAWN TREADER | Fri: 11:05 am, 1:50, 4:50, 7:40, 10:15
THE FIGHTER | Fri: 10:15 am, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:10
HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS PART 1 | Fri: 12:30, 3:40, 7, 10:10
HOW DO YOU KNOW | Fri: 10:30 am, 1:30, 4:30, 7:25, 10:15
TANGLED | Fri: 11:15 am, 2, 4:45, 7:30, 9:55
THE TOURIST | Fri: 11:30 am, 2:15, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50
TRON: LEGACY IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D | Fri: 10 am, 1, 4, 7, 10
YOGI BEAR | Fri: 10:05 am, 12:35, 2:50, 5:20, 7:45, 10

BURLINGTON
AMC X, Middlesex Turnpike, off Rte 128 Exit 32B | 781.229.9200
GULLIVER'S TRAVELS | 11:30 am, 2, 4:30, 7, 9:10
LITTLE FOCKERS | 9:30 am, noon, 2:25, 5, 7:40, 10:10
TRUE GRIT | 9:25 am, 12:05, 2:45, 5:30, 8:20, 11
THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: THE VOYAGE OF THE DAWN TREADER | 10:40 am, 1:20, 7:30, 10:15 | Fri-Sat: 4:30 | Sun-Thurs: 4:50
THE FIGHTER | 10:50 am, 1:50, 5:10, 8, 10:50
HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS PART 1 | Fri: 9:30 am, 12:40, 4, 7:10, 10:30 | Sat-Thurs: 6:40, 10:05
HOW DO YOU KNOW | 11:15 am, 2, 8:10, 10:55 | Fri: 5:20 | Sat-Thurs: 4:55
TANGLED | 10:20 am, 1 | Fri: 3:40, 6:45, 9:30 | Sat-Thurs: 4
THE TOURIST | 9:40 am, 12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11
TRON: LEGACY IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D | 9:50 am, 12:50, 4:10, 7:20, 10:25
YOGI BEAR | 9:45 am, 12:10, 2:15, 4:40, 9:20 | Fri: 7 | Sat-Thurs: 7:10

DEDHAM
Community Theatre, 580 High St | 781.326.0409
Please call to confirm bookings and for times
FAIR GAME
SECRETARIAT

HINGHAM
Loring Hall Cinema, 65 Main St | 781.749.1400
BLACK SWAN | 12:15 [no Sat], 2:30 [no Sat] | Sat-Thurs: 4:45, 7:10, 9:30

LEXINGTON
Lexington Venue, 1794 Mass Ave | 781.861.6161 | $9, $7 seniors
Please call to confirm bookings and for times
BLACK SWAN
THE FIGHTER

MAYNARD
Fine Arts Theatre, 19-21 Summer St | 978.897.8100
Please call to confirm bookings and for times
THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: THE VOYAGE OF THE DAWN TREADER
HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS PART 1
TANGLED

NEWBURYPORT
Screening Room, 82 State St | 978.462.3456
TAMARA DREWE | Sat: 3:15, 6, 8:45 | Sun-Thurs: 7:30 | Sun: 4:45

NEWTON
West Newton Cinema, 1296 Washington St | 617.964.6060
TRUE GRIT | 12:55, 2, 3:40, 4:45, 6, 7:45, 8:40 | Sun-Thurs: 10:30 am
BLACK SWAN | 1:05, 3:45, 6:15, 7:30 8:35 | Sun-Thurs: 10:35 am
FAIR GAME | 5
THE GIRL WHO KICKED THE HORNET'S NEST | 12:45, 8:35
INSIDE JOB | 3:40, 6:10 [no Tues]
MAO'S LAST DANCER | 12:55
NORA'S WILL | 3:35, 6:20 [no Tues], 8:30 | Sun-Thurs: 11 am
TANGLED | 12:50, 2:45 | Sun-Thurs: 11 am
MEGAMIND | Sun-Thurs: 11 am

RANDOLPH
Showcase Cinema, Rte 139 | 781.963.5600
Please call for remaining times
LITTLE FOCKERS | Fri: 11:30 am, noon, 2, 2:30, 4:30, 5, 6:30, 7, 7:30
TRUE GRIT | Fri: 7:20
BLACK SWAN | Fri: 11:40 am, 2:20, 4:55, 7:40
THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: THE VOYAGE OF THE DAWN TREADER IN DIGITAL 3D | Fri: 11:10 am, 1:55, 4:45, 7:25
THE FIGHTER | Fri: 12:55, 1:25, 3:45, 4:15, 6:40, 7:10
HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS PART 1 | Fri: 12:45, 4
HOW DO YOU KNOW | Fri: 12:30, 3:35, 6:35
MEGAMIND | Fri: 11 am
TANGLED IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D | Fri: 11:45 am, 2:05, 4:25, 6:55
THE TOURIST | Fri: 1:15, 3:50, 6:25
TRON: LEGACY: AN IMAX EXPERIENCE | Fri: 12:35, 3:40, 6:45
TRON: LEGACY | Fri: 1:35, 4:40, 7:45
TRON: LEGACY IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D | Fri: 1:05, 4:10, 7:15
YOGI BEAR | Fri: 11:50 am, 2:10, 4:20
YOGI BEAR 3D | Fri: 12:20, 2:40, 4:50, 7:05

REVERE
Showcase Cinema, Rte 1 and Squire Rd | 781.286.1660
Please call to for remaining times
LITTLE FOCKERS | Fri: 11:25 am, 11:55 am, 1:55, 2:25, 4:25, 4:55, 6:55, 7:25
TRUE GRIT | Fri: 1:20, 4:05, 7:10
BLACK SWAN | Fri: 11:45 am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:45
THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: THE VOYAGE OF THE DAWN TREADER IN DIGITAL 3D | Fri: 1:05, 3:55, 6:30
THE FIGHTER | Fri: 12:40, 3:05, 3:35, 6:10, 6:40
HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS: PART 1 | Fri: 1, 4:15, 7:35
HOW DO YOU KNOW | Fri: 12:35, 3:25, 6:20
LOVE & OTHER DRUGS | Fri: 6:45
MEGAMIND | Fri: 12:10
TANGLED | Fri: 11:35 am, 2, 4:30, 6:50
THE TOURIST | Fri: 11:50 am, 12:20, 2:15, 2:45, 4:45, 5:15, 7:30, 8
TRON: LEGACY | Fri: 12:15, 3:10, 6:05
TRON: LEGACY IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D | Fri: 12:45, 1:15, 3:40, 4:10, 6:35, 7:05
YOGI BEAR | Fri: 11:30 am, noon, 1:40, 2:10, 3:50, 4:20, 6:15
YOGI BEAR 3D | Fri: 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:15

SALEM
Museum Place Cinemas, Church St at East India Square | 978.744.3700
GULLIVER'S TRAVELS | 1:45, 4, 6:45 | Sun-Thurs: 11 am
LITTLE FOCKERS | noon [no Sat], 2:15, 4:45 [no Fri], 7 [no Fri]
FOUR LIONS | 12:15 [no Sat], 2:30, 5 [no Fri], 7:30 [no Fri
HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS PART 1 | Fri: 11 am, 1:45]
TRON: LEGACY | 11:20 am [no Sat], 2, 4:30, 7:15 [no Fri]

SOMERVILLE THEATRE
55 Davis Square | 617.625.5700
LITTLE FOCKERS | 12:40 [no Sat], 3 [no Sat], 5:15 [no Sat], 7:30, 9:45 [no Fri]
HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS PART 1 | 12:30 [no Sat], 3:20 [no Sat], 6:30
HOW DO YOU KNOW | 1:30 [no Sat], 4:30 [no Sat], 7:10, 9:40 [no Fri]
LOVE & OTHER DRUGS | Sat-Thurs: 12:40 [no Sat], 3:15 [no Sat], 6:45, 9:20
THE SOCIAL NETWORK | Sat-Thurs: 9:30
TRON: LEGACY | 12:45 [no Sat], 3:30 [no Sat], 7, 9:45 [no Fri]

WALTHAM
Embassy Cinema, 16 Pine St | 781.736.7852
LITTLE FOCKERS | Fri: 1:40, 4:25, 7:20 | Sat-Thurs: 1:50, 4:45, 7:30, 9:55
THE FIGHTER | Fri: 1:20, 4:05, 7 | Sat-Thurs: 1:30, 4:25, 7:10, 9:50
HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS PART 1 | Fri: 1:50, 6:30 | Sat-Thurs: 1
HOW DO YOU KNOW | Fri: 1, 3:45, 6:40 | Sat-Thurs: 1:10, 3:55, 6:40, 9:30
THE KING'S SPEECH | Sat-Thurs: 1:20, 4:15, 7, 9:40
THE SOCIAL NETWORK | Sat-Thurs: 4:05, 6:50, 9:35
THE TOURIST | Fri: 1:30, 4:15, 7:10 | Sat-Thurs: 1:40, 4:35, 7:20, 9:45

WEYMOUTH
Cameo Theatre, Columbia Square, South Weymouth | 781.335.2777
HOW DO YOU KNOW | 1:45 [no Sat], 4:45, 7:30 [no Fri]
HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS PART 1 | Sat-Thurs: 7:20
TANGLED | 5:15 | Fri, Sun-Thurs: 1, 3:10

WOBURN
Showcase, Main St, Middlesex Canal Park | 781.933.5330
Please call for remaining times
LITTLE FOCKERS | Fri: 11:55 am, 2:20, 4:40, 7:10
TRUE GRIT | Fri: 1:25, 4:20, 7:05
BLACK SWAN | Fri: 12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:25
THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: THE VOYAGE OF THE DAWN TREADER IN DIGITAL 3D | Fri: 1:35, 4:15, 6:50
THE FIGHTER | Fri: 1:30, 4:25, 7:20
HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS PART 1 | Fri: 11:50 am, 3:15, 6:35
HOW DO YOU KNOW | Fri: 12:45, 3:45, 6:40
TANGLED | Fri: 11:30 am, 2:05, 4:35, 6:55
THE TOURIST | Fri: noon, 2:35, 5:05, 7:30
TRON: LEGACY | Fri: 1, 4, 7
TRON: LEGACY IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D | Fri: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30
YOGI BEAR | Fri: 12:10, 12:40, 2:25, 2:55, 4:30, 5, 6:45, 7:15

FILM SPECIALS

ADAMS STREET BRANCH LIBRARY
690 Adams St, Dorchester | 617.436.6900 | Free admission
WHEN HARRY MET SALLY . . . | Mon: 2

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
Copley Square, Boston | 617.536.5400 | Free admission
BOSTON, THE WAY IT WAS | Mon: 6
THE BISHOP'S WIFE | Thurs: 2 [Never Too Late Group]

HYDE PARK BRANCH LIBRARY
35 Harvard Ave, Hyde Park | 617.361.2524 | Free admission
IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE | Fri: 2:30

THE INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART
100 Northern Ave, Boston | 617.478.3103 | $10; $8 students
"THE ART AND TECHNIQUE OF THE AMERICAN COMMERCIAL" | Thurs: 7
"AWARD-WINNING BRITISH COMMERCIALS 2010" | Thurs: 8:30

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS
465 Huntington Ave, Boston | 617.369.3300 | $9; $8 students, seniors
THE PIANO TEACHER | Sun: 11 am | Wed: 7:30
SUMMER PALACE | Sun: 1:30
VIOLETTE | Wed: 2:30 | Thurs: 7
8 WOMEN | Wed: 5 | Thurs: 2
PURPLE BUTTERFLY | Thurs: 4:30

SOUTH BOSTON BRANCH LIBRARY
646 East Broadway, South Boston | 617.268.0180 | Free admission
THE SHOP AROUND THE CORNER | Tues: 1
A CONNECTICUT YANKEE IN KING ARTHUR'S COURT | Thurs: 6

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RICHARD CORLISS, TIME

"WITHERSPOON AND RUDD SPAR BEAUTIFULLY, RELISHING JAMES L. BROOKS' TASTY DIALOGUE."
PETER TRAVERS, Rolling Stone

"THE MUST-SEE MOVIE OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON."
MIKE SARGENT, WBAI-RADIO

"SMART AND ENTERTAINING."
MARSHALL FINE, STAR

"ONE OF THE SMARTEST, SWEETEST AND DOWNRIGHT BEST ROMANTIC COMEDIES IN YEARS."
JAKE HAMILTON, FOX-TV

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OUR RATING
Masterpiece ⊕⊕⊕⊕
Good ⊕⊕⊕
Okay ⊕⊕
Not Good ⊕
Stinks ⊖

A

ALL GOOD THINGS | 2010 | Peter Keough's review is on page 21. | 101m | Kendall Square

B

⊕⊕⊕ **BHUTTO | 2010** | This well-researched documentary from Duane Baughman and Johnny O'Hara gives viewers a useful history of Pakistan since it broke away from India in 1947, as well as the inside story of the Bhutto family, who, as perennial government leaders, have stood publicly for women's rights, democracy, and a moderate form of Islam in a country where fundamentalism and the conservative military fight to rule and where Al-Qaeda runs free. The filmmakers focus on Benazir Bhutto, from her liberating days as a late-1960s Harvard student (she's Joan Baez gorgeous) to her horrific 2007 assassination, when, at 54, she returned to Pakistan from exile to run for a third term as prime minister. The woman is an extraordinarily compelling figure, and the admiring filmmakers just stop short of creating a love-in, even as they admit that she was ineffectual in her first term as PM and mired in corruption in her second. And, yes, it's possible that she was behind the assassination of Murtaza Bhutto, her brother. | 111m | Kendall Square

⊕⊕⊕ **THE BISHOP'S WIFE | 1947** | In this Christmas classic, Episcopal bishop Henry Brougham (David Niven is trying to get a new cathedral built, and when Dudley (Cary Grant) shows up, ostensibly to help, Henry thinks Dudley is trying to replace him both in his position and in the hearts of his wife (Loretta Young) and children. Dudley is, of course, an angel, and the lessons he has for Henry are not the ones Henry would have expected. Henry Koster directs. | b&w | 109m | BPL: Thurs [Never Too Late Group]

⊕⊕⊕⊕ **BLACK SWAN | 2010** | Darren Aronofsky's bizarre and brilliant symphony of opposites comes loaded with enough mirrors and scenery chewing to fill a Douglas Sirk film festival, and its *Red Shoes*-like balletic effusions flare into horror-movie metamorphoses. Natalie Portman puts in her best work to date as Nina, the exquisite, porcelain beauty of a ballerina whose driving desire — instilled in her by the ultimate stage mother (Barbara Hershey), — is to dance Odette/Odile in her company's production of *Swan Lake*. The artistic director, Thomas (Vincent Cassel), who's a sexual-harassment lawsuit waiting to happen, sees her as fine for the White Swan half of this dual role, but as for the id-like Black Swan, he isn't so sure. Enter new-dancer-in-town Lily (Mila Kunis as the brash, almost blowzy antithesis of Nina), who, when Nina is having a *Mommie Dearest* run-in with her mother, offers her an opportunity to escape to a wild night of roofies and girl-on-girl sex. The idea that the good girl and her naughty alter ego need to meet and greet would seem a sophomoric formulation if Aronofsky didn't make it palpably real, and if the rhythms and the mood of the editing and the images were not so incantatory. | 103m | Boston Common + Fenway + Kendall Square + Coolidge Corner + West Newton + suburbs

THE BOSTON STRANGLER | 1968 | The draw here is Tony Curtis as Alberto DeSalvo, who confessed to having murdered 13 women between 1962 and 1964, plus Henry Fonda as assistant attorney general John Bottomly and George Kennedy as Detective Philip DiNatale. The film raises no question as to DeSalvo's guilt, however, and it turns him into a multiple-personality-disorder victim. Richard Fleischer directs. | 115m | Brattle: Wed

⊕⊕⊕ **BUDRUS | 2009** | Simply shot and straightforward in its argument, this film from Brazilian documentarian Julia Bacha is an agitprop rallying cry for Palestinians living in the West Bank's Occupied Territories. Bacha was there for the 10 months of protests in the tiny town of Budrus (population 1500), when Israeli bulldozers arrived to make way for a wall separating Israel from the Palestinians. This wall would come into Budrus, skirting an elementary school and, more important, knocking down hundreds of date palms, the town's chief resource. Budrus's answer was a daily non-violent demonstration led by Ayed Morrar, an Assad moderate of Gandhi-like convictions. *Budrus* heats up along with the demonstrations, as Israeli peaceniks join the cause, and as the non-violence falls apart with Muslim stone throwing and Israeli army bullets. But Morrar, like the filmmaker, stands firm in his belief that pacifist resistance by Palestinians can alter the map of Israel. | Arabic + Hebrew + English | 70m | Coolidge Corner: Fri

C

⊕⊕ **THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: THE VOYAGE OF THE DAWN TREADER | 2010** | How are the kids going to take to preachy C.S. Lewis after the pagan Harry Potter and the titillating *Twilight*? Michael Apted's adaptation of the third of the Christian apologist's seven-book series about a world where youngsters can have adventures and learn their lessons stirs up some of the magic of the original, and it even brought a tear to this apostate's eye with its scenes of pathos and redemption. For the most part, though, the film is rote and humorless and muddied by perfunctory 3D. The two youngest Pevensie siblings, Edmund (Skandar Keynes) and Lucy (Georgie Henley), are whisked back to Narnia along with the token cowardly skeptic, their cousin Eustace (Will Poulter). There they join King Caspian (Ben Barnes) of the previous film in a search for seven swords from seven lords. It's kind of like looking for the Horcruxes in *The Deathly Hallows*, but not as much fun. | 115m | Boston Common + Fenway + Fresh Pond + Chestnut Hill + suburbs

A CONNECTICUT YANKEE IN KING ARTHUR'S COURT | 1949 | We have only the foggiest memory of this oddly cast version of the Mark Twain classic, but we suspect it's for Bing Crosby fans only. Yes, that's Der Bingle as Hank Martin, a lowly mechanic in 1912 who's transported by bump on the head back to AD 528 and Arthurian Britain, where he uses his knowledge of 20th-century technology as he befriends Sir Sagramore le Desirous (William Bendix) and falls in love with the niece (Rhonda Fleming) of King Arthur (Cedric Hardwicke), thereby arousing the wrath of her fiancé, Sir Lancelot (Henry Wilcoxon). Tay Garnett directs. | 106m | South Boston Branch Library: Thurs

E

⊕⊕⊕ **EDWARD SCISSORHANDS | 1990** | Tim Burton's film is as simple-minded, unformed, and ephemeral as a teenager's longings. This contrived pastiche is held together by dazzling imagery, a flair for physical comedy, skewed visual wit, and the director's palpable sincerity. Johnny Depp's Edward is a pale-faced boy in black leather whose hands end in a collection of razor-sharp shears. The creation of a mysterious inventor (Vincent Price) who died before he could complete his work, Edward is rescued by an Avon Lady (Dianne Wiest) who takes him home with her and introduces him to her neighbors. The film is a hackneyed fable of suburban hypocrisy and adolescent alienation, but Depp's performance radiates pathos and lingers in the imagination. With Winona Ryder. | 105m | Brattle: Sat-Mon

⊕⊕⊕ **8 WOMEN [8 FEMMES] | 2001** | A runaway popular hit but not an award winner at the 2002 Berlin Film Festival, François Ozon's campy musical/soap opera/country-house murder mystery provides star turns for eight celebrated French actresses in a hilarious story that encompasses three generations and embraces incest. The time is the 1950s, and the setting is an isolated mansion in the snowy French countryside, where a family have gathered to celebrate the Christmas holidays. But then patriarch Marcel gets bumped off? Whodunit? Wife Gaby (Catherine Deneuve), who seems fonder of her bourgeois comforts than she is of her daughters or her husband? Gaby's mother (Danielle Darrieux), who's moved into her daughter's home? Gaby's repressed old-maid sister, Augustine (Isabelle Huppert)? Elder daughter Suzon (Virginie Ledoyen)? Younger daughter Catherine (Ludivine Sagnier)? Then there's Marcel's glamorous sister, Pierrette (Fanny Ardant), who shows up unexpectedly — and don't overlook long-time housekeeper Mme. Chanel (Firmine Richard), or steamy new chambermaid Louise (Emmanuelle Béart). You'll also want to ask yourself whether Marcel is really dead, since we hardly get to see the body, and of course the house has been cut off by the snowstorm, so there's no doctor to confirm the death and no police to investigate it. Not that it's easy to focus on the murder mystery — or the closetful of secrets that come out — the way the eight ladies keep singing and dancing their hearts out. You may not be edified by this lightweight effort, but you will be entertained. | French | 104m | MFA: Wed-Thurs

F

⊕⊕⊕ **FAIR GAME | 2010** | Doug Liman's potent, sometimes infuriating dramatization of "Plamegate" has Sean Penn and Naomi Watts creating attractive, smart, sympathetic characters whose careers and marriage are strained to the breaking point but who, in true Capra-esque fashion, adhere to their values and their integrity. Vouched for by his wife, Valerie Plame (Watts), foreign-service diplomat Joseph Wilson (Penn) is sent to Niger to confirm the report that that country is selling uranium to Iraq. Despite his conclusion that the report is bogus, President Bush asserts it as fact in an address to the UN, and then Karl Rove and company out Plame as a CIA agent in retribution for her husband's action. The media pretty much bought it all, so no credit to them that it takes a Hollywood movie to get out another side of the story. But Kudos to Liman and his cast for transforming the kind of political meat and potatoes Americans generally ignore into the kind of engaging entertainment they enjoy. It all ends in the inevitable rousing speeches, but until then, this game is played fair. | 106m | West Newton + suburbs

⊕⊕⊕ **FIGHT CLUB | 1999** | David Fincher's adaptation of Chuck Palahniuk's sophomoric first novel is trashy, sensationalistic, amoral, pretentious, and bound to outrage

those who believe that movies corrupt society and cause violent behavior. Edward Norton's unnamed narrator is a corporate drone who investigates accidents for an auto company. When his designer-catalogue-furnished apartment blows up mysteriously, he moves in with prankster dilettante Tyler Durden (Brad Pitt), and together the pair draw other disenfranchised losers into their after-hours bare-knuckle bouts, organizing it into "Fight Club," a grassroots movement transforming anti-establishment rage into self-flagellation that branches out into the escalating terrorism of "Project Mayhem," Tyler's scheme to overthrow the civilized world. Fincher's film spars with issues of alienation, repression, self-destruction, the future of civilization, and the nature of the cinema, but these are glancing blows — it's all just shadow boxing. | 139m | Brattle: Thurs

⊕⊕⊖ **THE FIGHTER | 2010** | This David O. Russell effort triumphs as a crowd-pleasing underdog fight flick, but it really connects as a horrible and hilarious deconstruction of family values gone nuclear. Played by Mark Wahlberg (outstanding in a tough, understated role), light-welterweight "Irish" Micky Ward — the Pride of Lowell, Massachusetts — must endure the tyranny of his mom and ad hoc manager, Alice (Melissa Leo), who makes the crime-family matriarch of *Animal Kingdom* look like a den mother, and his seven harridan sisters. Then there's Micky's revered half-brother Dicky (in a tour de force performance by Christian Bale), the previous Pride of Lowell, who's apt to get wasted with his fellow addicts when he's supposed to be working Micky's corner. Micky's new sweetheart, local bargirl Charlene (Amy Adams), wants him to break with the folks and take up an offer from a legit promoter. Can Micky save his career, marry Charlene, and still not lose the kinship and inspiration of Dicky, the seven sisters, and Alice? It might sound like *Raging Bull* all over again, but Russell's version is more theater of the absurd than grand opera. And the boxing sequences can't compete with Scorsese's. In fact, Russell is so engrossed in the family circus that you're surprised whenever the boxing movie breaks out. Maybe that's why, though ending on a high note, the film just seems to come to a stop. All that *The Fighter* needs to score a knockout is a strong last round. | 114m | Boston Common + Fenway + Harvard Square + Fresh Pond + Chestnut Hill + Embassy + suburbs

⊕⊕⊕⊕ **THE FRENCH CONNECTION | 1971** | William Friedkin's jacked-up nasty-cop-in-New-York drama, an Oscar winner for Best Picture, remains a definitive urban thriller. As Popeye Doyle, Gene Hackman offers what amounts to a magnificent vaudeville turn: as a renegade cop trying to crack an international heroin-smuggling operation. Rattling off obscenities and knocking off minorities, he makes being a jerk seem mesmerizing. With the justly famous car-versus-subway chase and Fernando Rey as an irresistibly suave heroin smuggler. | 104m | Brattle: Wed

G

⊕⊕ **THE GIRL WHO KICKED THE HORNET'S NEST [LUFTSLOTTET SOM SPRÄNGDES]** | Daniel Alfredson's adaptation of the last installment of the late Swedish novelist Stieg Larsson's Millennium Trilogy picks up immediately from *The Girl Who Played with Fire*, as Lisbeth Salander (Noomi Rapace, still a spitfire) is rushed to the ICU with a bullet in her brain fired by her immune-to-pain half-brother, hulking albino Ronald Niedermann (Mikael Spreitz). Her ex-KGB father, hard-to-kill Alexander Zalachenko (Georgi Staykov), is in the same hospital, having been chopped with an ax by his daughter. Eventually, Lisbeth will recover and go to court so she can stand falsely accused of three murders. Until then, her participation in the film is limited. That leaves her ex-lover, crusading journalist Mikael Blomkvist (Michael Nyqvist), to work with his magazine staff and new allies within the government in order to build her case and bring the bad guys to justice. Unfortunately, with Lisbeth laid up, the tentative but rewarding rapport between her and Mikael has dissipated. And no matter how propulsive Jacob Groth's electronic music may be, it just can't make scenes of Lisbeth lying in bed and tapping out her autobiography on the keys of a smart phone all that exciting to watch. | Swedish | 148m | West Newton

⊕⊕⊕⊕ **THE GRAPES OF WRATH | 1940** | Steinbeck's great book was turned into an incredibly stirring John Ford movie about the Joad family's trek from the dust bowls of Oklahoma to sunny California, the American dream state where fruit supposedly grows free for the picking by migrant workers. The monumental cast is headed by Jane Darwell as wise Ma Joad, Henry Fonda as deep-thinking Tom, and John Carradine as the Christ-like preacher man, Jim Casey. Never would director Ford — or Hollywood? — or the FDR government? — be so radical again. "We're the people. We keep a-comin'." | b&w | 128m | Brattle: Sat-Mon

GULLIVER'S TRAVELS | 2010 | Peter Keough's review is on page 21. | 85m | Boston Common + Fenway + Fresh Pond + suburbs: opens Sat

H

⊕⊕⊖ **HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS PART 1 | 2010** | In his third foray into the franchise (he also directs the upcoming conclusion, *The Deathly Hallows Part 2*) David Yates replaces the baroque wonders of Hogwarts with a greasy tent in barren landscapes, exchanging occasionally threatening whimsy for relentless dread, degradation, and torture. Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes) has killed Dumbledore (Michael Gambon), the magical world now resembles Stalinist Russia as seen in a Pink Floyd music video, and Harry (Daniel Radcliffe), Hermione (Emma Watson), and Ron (Rupert Grint) are on the run, in search of the seven Horcruxes from *The Half-Blood Prince*, talismans containing Voldemort's fragmented soul — so of course their negative energy makes our heroes' task that much harder. The film can seem talky and overdetermined and burdened with its million-word backstory. But then it'll reward your patience and depression with an image that's almost visionary — Harry being guided by a patronus (they're kind of like the dæmons in Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials*) in the form of a deer, or the tiny tent seen from high above lost in the endless windings of a rocky wasteland. This is one movie in which the natural effects exceed the special kind. And then other moments stand out because of their simple humanity, scenes in which loved ones are united or lost. Those are the most magical moments of all. | 145m | Boston Common + Fenway + Somerville Theatre + Embassy + Arlington Capitol + suburbs

⊕⊕ **HOW DO YOU KNOW | 2010** | It's strange that James L. Brooks should take so long to make his movies (this is his first since 2004's *Spanglish*, and only his sixth since his Oscar-winning debut, 1983's *Terms of Endearment*), since he started out writing for TV shows like *That Girl* and *My Mother the Car*. It's even more disappointing that he still mines the easy jokes, pandering sentimentality, and predictability of sit-coms. Where's the Brooks of *Broadcast News*? Here, Paul Rudd is so likable as unemployed investor George that, even though he's broke, on the rebound, and the target of a federal investigation, you never doubt he'll end up with Lisa (Reese Witherspoon), a pro softball player just cut from her team. Besides, Lisa has no chemistry with Matty (Owen Wilson), the "essentially monogamous" pitcher she's dating. The thing is, if George takes the fall for his corrupt father (Jack Nicholson), he'll save dad from "25 years to death," but he'll lose Lisa. Six years in the making and this is *As Good As It Gets?* | 120m | Boston Common + Fenway + Harvard Square + Somerville Theatre + Chestnut Hill + Embassy + Arlington Capitol + suburbs

I

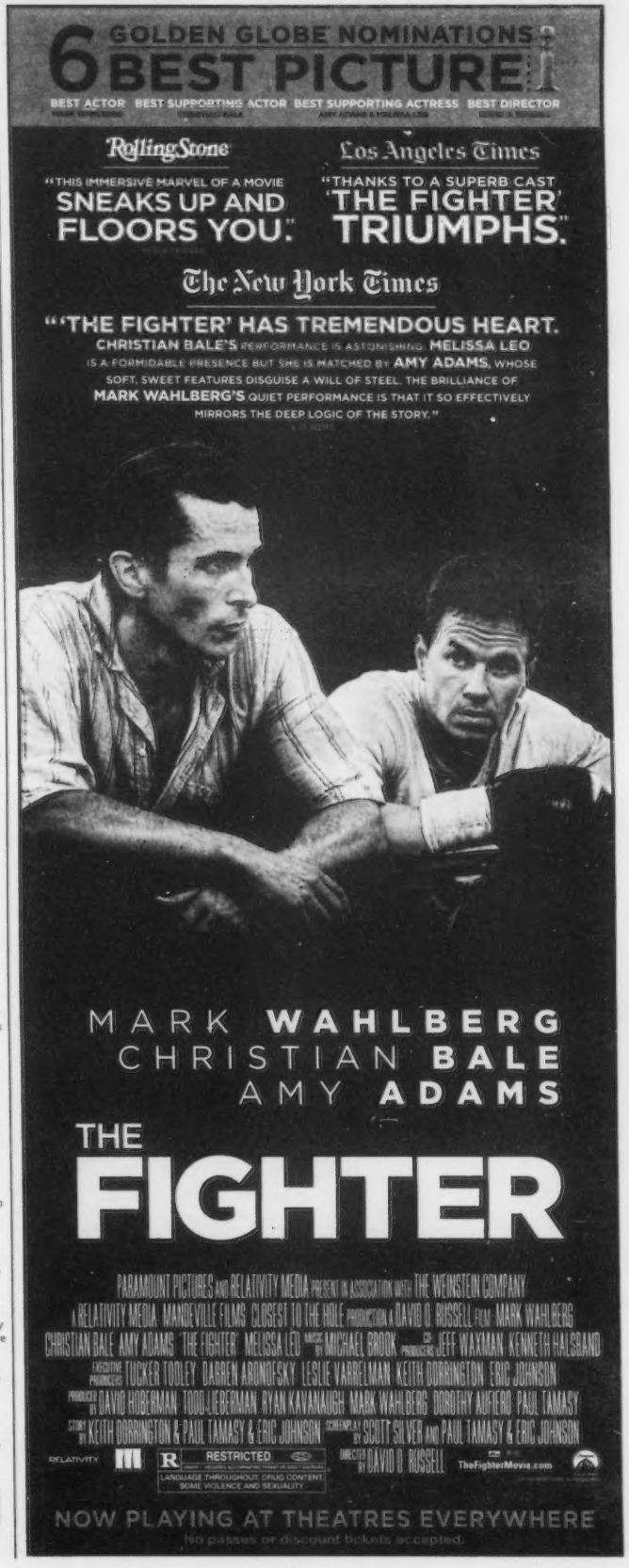
⊕⊕⊖ **I LOVE YOU PHILLIP MORRIS | 2009** | Only in the last half-hour of *I Love You Phillip Morris* does it click that this really is the gritty, true tale of king conman Steven Russell (Jim Carrey) and his jailbird lover, Phillip Morris (Ewan McGregor). For the first three-quarters of the movie, the characters — though multi-dimensional — are trapped in an alternative Forrest Gump reality where Texas prison life is fun if you enjoy giving blowjobs. Only vaguely accurate in detail, *Phillip Morris* depicts Russell, who is now serving a life sentence, transforming from a happily married but closeted Christian cop into a South Beach player who realizes that being gay is really expensive, so he uses his genius wit to run scams of dirty rotten proportions. This film will garner attention as a sunny gay romance, and that's unfortunate. It would have worked much better as a dirty drama about the most toxic non-violent criminal in Texas history. | 98m | Kendall Square + Coolidge Corner

⊕⊕⊕⊕ **INSIDE JOB | 2010** | Although *Inside Job* is destined for Academy acclaim, it seems unlikely that anyone will actually enjoy Charles Ferguson's new documentary. Regardless of your spot in the food chain, it's the feel-bad film of the year. In this comprehensive account of how a few whiteboys looted planet Earth and stole away in custom jets, Ferguson attaches names and faces to the global economic meltdown — and even puts the screws to some scumbags who did the screwing. As a bonus for folks who will claim they already understand what happened, he also digs deep into America's toxic economic climate, showing how Harvard and other top business schools are compromised by foolhardy free-market zealots. *Inside Job* won't incite thousands of righteous martyrs to march into downtown Manhattan armed with clubs and bats — but it should. | 108m | Kendall Square + West Newton

⊕⊕⊕⊕ **IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE | 1946** | Frank Capra's classic gets a little sentimental at the beginning (God talking from a spiral galaxy) and the end (angel Clarence getting his wings). But the film also shows us Capra — and American moviemaking — at its best. Not many directors would let their hero — Jimmy Stewart, yet — behave as abominably as *It's a Wonderful Life* does (Stewart's George Bailey to Donna Reed's Mary: "Why do we have to have all these kids?"). Capra is telling us that it can also be a pretty horrible life, and that the line between the two is razorblade thin — the absence of one good guy can bring out the worst in an entire town. Yet it's Stewart, all spontaneous good will and unblinking faith, who makes what could have been just another treacly postwar morale builder into a cinematic statement that, in its naive decency and optimism, is uniquely American. | b&w | 129m | Hyde Park Branch Library: Fri

K

⊕⊕ **THE KING'S SPEECH | 2010** | Continued on p 52



11 CRITICS' CHOICE MOVIE AWARDS
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SCREEN ACTORS GUILD AWARDS NOMINATIONS
BEST ACTOR JEFF BRIDGES BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS HAILEE STEINFELD
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CAPSULE REVIEWS

Film

Continued from p 51

Given that England's George III ran around pissing blue from porphyry, his great-great-great grandson, George VI, got off pretty easy with just a stutter. And certainly Nicholas Hytner's *The Madness of King George* (1994) is a lot more substantive than this precious bid for kneejerk Oscars. No doubt Colin Firth will get at least a nomination for his portrayal of the title monarch, who finds himself on the throne and in front of a radio microphone when his bullying father, George V, dies and his elder brother, Edward VII (Guy Pearce), abdicates for the love of a not-so-good woman. Likewise, Geoffrey Rush will get a nod as Lionel Logue, the Australian speech therapist without portfolio or good breeding who uses unorthodox methods to whip George VI into shape when the Nazis threaten to invade. The message from director Tom Hooper (*The Damned United*) seems to be that neither birth . . . or background nor any other qualification matters when you're leading the country — or treating those who do. | 118m | Boston Common + Kendall Square + Coolidge Corner + Embassy [opens Sat] + suburbs

⊕⊕⊕ **KISS OF DEATH** | **1947** | This surpassingly nasty film noir was one of the first movies to take the gangster genre out of the studio and into the streets — in this case, New York City. Victor Mature is surprisingly good in the story of a captured thief who must rat on his friends in order to go straight. The film, though, is dominated by Richard Widmark (in his screen debut) as a psychopathic killer who, among other things, pushes an old lady in a wheelchair down a flight of stairs. Widmark's sadistic chuckle was so haunting, he remained typecast as a cold-eyed killer for years. With Coleen Gray; screenplay by Ben Hecht and Charles Lederer; Henry Hathaway directed. | b&w | 98m | Brattle: Tues

L

THE LEGEND OF PALE MALE | **2009** | Gerald Peary's review is on page 21. | 85m | Coolidge Corner

⊕⊕⊕ **LIFEBOAT** | **1944** | Alfred Hitchcock adapted the John Steinbeck story about survivors of a passenger ship sunk by the Germans during WW2 floating around the Atlantic with a rescued Nazi sailor. It's all in the cast here, with one memorable over-delivered line after another from Tallulah Bankhead, William Bendix, and Walter Slezak. Tallulah says, "Here we are in the middle of the ocean without an ocean liner." And Hitchcock has one of his best cameos. | b&w | 96m | Brattle: Tues

LITTLE FOCKERS | **2010** | Brett Michel's review is on page 21. | 98m | Boston Common + Fenway + Harvard Square + Somerville Theatre + Chestnut Hill + Embassy + Arlington Capitol + suburbs

⊕⊖ **LOVE & OTHER DRUGS** | **2010** | In a movie about erectile dysfunction and terminal illness, you don't expect subtlety. Nonetheless, in his adaptation of Jamie Reidy's *Hard Sell: The Evolution of a Viagra Salesman*, Ed Zwick mixes smarm and sentimentality. Jake Gyllenhaal's cocky Jamie starts out as a salesman in an electronics store, and in between selling gullible customers shoddy products, he shtups the female help. This leads to an untidy dismissal and a new job selling Pfizer drugs that takes off when the little blue pill is marketed. Along the way, he bonds with a sleazy doctor (Hank Azaria), and they seem like a couple of funny guys who just happen to be exploiting human misery — kind of like Aaron Eckhart's character in *Thank You for Smoking*. Anne Hathaway sheds her nice-girl image (along with her clothes) as Jamie's girlfriend, Maggie, providing Jamie with self-sacrificing moments when she starts ailing. | 113m | Stuart Street Playhouse + Somerville Theatre + Arlington Capitol + suburbs

M

⊕⊕⊖ **MADE IN DAGENHAM** | **2010** | Back in the '60s, a ragtag lot of seamstresses at the Ford Dagenham auto plant in East London cast a rock at the glass ceiling by demanding equal pay. The strike that followed became an international spectacle involving union heads, the British Labour Office, and the Ford brass across the pond in Detroit — all making a lively backdrop for this cheeky docudrama by Nigel Cole (*Calendar Girls*). The Norma Rae–esque heroics of Rita O'Grady (Sally Hawkins) take center stage as she rises up from meek upholsterer to become the fiery leader of her fellow female employees. It's all very rousing, but O'Grady's transformation and the impetus for the dispute/strike erupt out of nowhere. Nonetheless, Hawkins, so fantastic in Mike Leigh's *Happy Go Lucky*, gives another award-worthy performance, and Bob Hoskins and Miranda Richardson provide adroit back-up as the union floor rep and the British Labour minister. | 113m | Coolidge Corner

⊕⊕⊖ **MAO'S LAST DANCER** | **2009** | Bruce Beresford may here be closer to the manipulative *Driving Miss Daisy* (1989) than to his earlier masterpieces of emotional restraint, *Breaker Morant* (1980) and *Tender Mercies* (1983) — but he gets good performances from his cast. There's Chi Cao, a principal at Birmingham Royal Ballet, in his screen debut; there's Joan Chen (*The Last Emperor*) as a long-suffering mother. And, especially, there's Bruce Greenwood (*The Sweet Hereafter*) in a tricky role as Houston Ballet artistic director Ben Stevenson — he has a touch of the ol' Mao in him. Working from Jan (*Shine*) Sardi's straightforward adaptation of Li Cunxin's autobiography, Beresford imagines a baldly inspiring tale of the exile's life, from poverty in China to fame and fortune in the US after a dramatic defection in the early '80s. "I dance better here . . . feel more free," says Li. Watching Chi soar through the air, you believe it. | English + Mandarin | 117m | West Newton

⊕⊕⊖ **MEGAMIND** | **2010** | Did you like Universal's *Despicable Me* and its computer-animated 3D tale of a misunderstood criminal mastermind? Well, then, you're in luck: DreamWorks' latest computer-animated 3D release — which deals with the exploits of a misunderstood supervillain named Megamind (voiced by Will Ferrell) — is basically the same film, with a twisted take on the Superman/Lex Luthor dynamic. Keep in mind, Pixar mined the superhero genre far better six years ago with *The Incredibles*, and DreamWorks itself is capable of superior fare like this past summer's *How To Train Your Dragon*. Still, if celebrity voices (there's also Brad Pitt as vain hero Metro Man, Tina Fey as the Lois Lane–like Roxanne Ritchi, and Jonah Hill as the Jimmy Olsen-like dork Hal Stewart) and an excess of licensed pop music are your thing, you might forgive the lack of ambition here as director Tom McGrath (*Madagascar*) treads familiar territory. | 96m | Fresh Pond + West Newton [Sun-Thurs] + suburbs

N

⊕⊕⊕ **NORA'S WILL** [**CINCO DÍAS SIN NORA**] | **2008** | Dying well is the best revenge, at least for the title suicide of Mexican filmmaker Mariana Chenillo's wry comedy. She plans her exit to coincide with Passover, forcing her ex-husband, José (Fernando Luján), to delay the interment for five days. Not that he's religious — or even much interested in fulfilling his dead ex's wishes. But Nora has planned everything so meticulously, labeling every dish for the seder in the refrigerator and inviting all the guests, that there's no escape. She's as controlling in death as she was in life. Among those who show up are José and Nora's weak-willed son and his straitlaced wife, the judgmental rabbi who doesn't approve of burying suicides, Nora's psychiatrist (who might have been more than just a therapist), and the helpful staff of the Cemetery of Jesus. Is Nora seeking to reconcile everyone? Or, as José insists, is she out to ruin their lives? Chenillo maintains a tone of gentle absurdity until the sentimental ending. | Spanish | 92m | West Newton

O

⊕⊕⊕ **OFFICE SPACE** | **1999** | Mike Judge, creator of TV's *Beavis and Butt-head* and *King of the Hill*, turns surprisingly civilized in his first live-action feature, which is based on "Milton," his animated shorts that predated reigning cubicle king Dilbert in lampooning the contemporary corporate wasteland. Judge's hero, Peter (Ron Livingston, ideal in his bewildered blandness), is lost in the partitioned rat-maze of Initech and bedeviled by his passive-aggressive boss Lumbergh (a satanically breezy Gary Cole). But after a hypnotherapy session gone wrong, Peter ignores his superiors, seldom shows up, hits on a cute waitress named Joanna (Jennifer Aniston, a plot addendum), and starts to be seen as management material. Midway through, though, Judge turns his film into a half-assed revenge of the nerds, as Peter and fellow drones Michael Bolton (David Herman) and Samir (Ajay Naidu) plot a computer ripoff. | 89m | Brattle: Thurs

⊕⊕⊕ **127 HOURS** | **2010** | James Franco's indomitable energy propels Danny Boyle's jazzy and harrowing account of the true story of Aron Ralston, a cocky rock climber who got his arm pinned by a boulder in a desolate Utah canyon and had to resort to dire measures to survive. Franco's Ralston is a loner and proud of it; he fails to take a call from his mother, and even when a pair of female hikers (Kate Mara and Amber Tamblyn) he's charmed invite him to a party, he pushes on to the vast emptiness, and a rendezvous with what will prove to be the rock of his destiny. Through the magic of hallucinations and flashbacks, Boyle manages to keep things lively in a film most of which consists of a motionless guy in a crevice moaning and struggling and drinking his own urine for the five-plus days of the title. But the meaning of it all remains elusive. In his increasingly desperate musings, Ralston concludes that maybe he *does* need other people. But this seems a lot of trouble to endure to be reminded to keep in touch with your mother. | 90m | Kendall Square

P

⊕⊕ **THE PIANO TEACHER** [**LA PIANISTE**] | **2001** | Michael Haneke's adaptation of Elfriede Jelinek's *Die Klavierspielerin* ("The Pianist") does wonders with a verbose, stridently banal novel, refining away much of its sophomoric cynicism and smug racism. In part he has Isabelle Huppert in the title role to thank. Fortyish and single, Erika Kohut is a failed concert pianist and embittered teacher at the Vienna Music Conservatory who lives with her equally grotesque mother (Annie Girardot) in a Punch & Judy show of co-dependency. Huppert (who won the Best Actress award last year at Cannes for her performance) ac-

Video Clips

Resident Evil: Afterlife

⊕⊕⊕ **RESIDENT EVIL: AFTERLIFE | Sony |** Within the first 15 minutes of *Resident Evil: Afterlife*, an army of Milla Jovovich clones (it's a long story) have ripped 500 bad guys to shreds and Tokyo has been reduced to a smoking crater. The action gets only more gonzo from there. This time, inhumanly bad-ass *Resident Evil* heroine Alice (Jovovich) must lead her fellow zombie-apocalypse survivors to a rumored safe haven called "Arcadia," all while trying to evade the clutches of undead ghouls and the unrepentantly evil Umbrella Corporation. As usual, director Paul W.S. Anderson treats the *Resident Evil* games like a buffet, pilfering the survival-horror steam tables for characters and gruesome imagery. And sure, *maybe* you've already seen walking corpses with nauseatingly sexual tentacles billowing out of their faces, or demon Doberman pinschers whose heads unzip to reveal tendrils of spiny teeth – but you've never seen it like this, in IMAX 3-D. Just hearing the audience gasp from vertigo during the opening zoom-out shot is almost worth the price of admission. | 97m

⊕⊕⊖ **THE AMERICAN | Universal |** In this austere thriller from Anton Corbijn, George Clooney is hired killer Jack, a/k/a Edward, who after a botched sojourn in snowy Sweden has headed to Italy to regroup. His cadaverous contact, Pavel (Johan Leysen), sets him up in an off-the-beaten-path mountain town in Abruzzo where he's to stay till things can be sorted out. Jack assembles a rifle for the mysterious, auburn-haired Mathilde (Thekla Reuten); he falls for the local whore with a heart of gold, Clara (Violante Placido), who bears an unnerving resemblance to Mathilde; and he hangs out with the local padre, Father Benedetto (Paolo Bonacelli), who offers him Armagnac and a friendly opportunity to confess his sins. Corbijn and scriptwriter Rowan Joffe made the smart decision to pare down the overwritten novel on which this film is based, Martin Booth's *A Very Private Gentleman*. In the process, however, they've come up with an underwritten movie. What's left is a starkly familiar tale of a hired gun, no longer young, fleeing enemies, tempted by love, lured into the inevitable last job. | 103m

cords Erika an element of mystery, no small task given a deadening regimen that consists of psychologically and physically damaging her students, trolling sex shops and parking lots for scopophilic thrills, tearing her mother's hair out in another fight about clothes and privacy, and mutilating her genitals. Walter Klemmer (Benoît Magimel, who won for Best Actor at Cannes), blond and cocky and about 15 years younger, insists that Erika take him on as her student, until the teacher/student relationship overturns and the refined façades shatter, for the characters and the film both. Jane Campion could give him some *Piano* lessons, but to his credit, Haneke ennobles the material. Still, *La pianiste* would never have gotten so much attention had not he dropped his æsthetic pants on occasion. So every now and then, out of the blue, Erika will squat and pee, or sniff a soiled tissue, or peek at her mother's pubic hair, or throw herself on a useless man to be utterly degraded. The arty trappings don't disguise the titillating intent, or the film's ultimate effect of diminishing one's delight in sex, humanity, and movies. | French | 130m | MFA: Sun + Wed

⊕⊕⊕⊖ **PURPLE BUTTERFLY | 2003 |** Lou Ye's historical drama unfolds as an album of emotive snapshots: billowing cigarette smoke, forsaken alley ways, hissing trains, and above all Ziyi Zhang's tear-stained face. The story is one of political intrigue in 1930s Shanghai. Zhang's Cynthia is a telephone switchboard operator and member of the Purple Butterfly, a radical underground group attempting to sabotage the Japanese occupation. Itami (Tōru Nakamura), her Japanese ex-lover, returns to the city as an intelligence operative charged with rooting out the resistance. As the two hasten toward violent extremes, a man named Szeto (Liu Ye) gets caught between them in a web of Hitchcockian mistaken identity. There is no real explanation of where the characters come from, and little dialogue, but neither is needed: Lou is more concerned with evoking a sense of time and space. At the end, as the narrative around Cynthia winds down in an elegant, two-minute Steadicam shot along a burning Shanghai avenue, there is an abrupt cut to black-and-white newsreel footage of the Japanese bombings of these very Shanghai streets. This conclusion is Lou's admission — after two hours of stylization and artifice — that violence cannot be æstheticized in a swirl of moody romance. If Zhang's face is the film's melody, its æthereal visual refrain refigured in various emotive keys, then the documentary dénouement provides a coda grounded in the history's real life. | Mandarin + Japanese + Vietnamese | 127m | MFA: Thurs

R

RABBIT HOLE | 2010 | Peter Keough's review is on page 21. | 91m | Boston Common + Kendall Square: opens Sat

RARE EXPORTS: A CHRISTMAS TALE | 2010 | S.I. Rosenbaum's review is on page 21. | 84m | Kendall Square

⊕⊕ **THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW | 1975 |** This horror-camp extravaganza still draws midnight crowds. Its story of two dorky, all-American kids (Barry Bostwick and Susan Sarandon) who find themselves indoctrinated into the pansexual ways of Dr. Frank-N-Furter is no more outrageous than *La Cage aux Folles*, but only a curmudgeon would deny the magnetism of Tim Curry, whose lip-smacking rendition of "Sweet Transvestite" remains one of the high points in all of cult movies. Jim Sharman directs. | 100m | Harvard Square: Sat

S

⊕⊕⊕⊕ **THE SHOP AROUND THE CORNER | 1940 |** Margaret Sullavan and James Stewart play adversaries who become lovers in this peerless romantic comedy written by Samson Raphaelson and directed by Ernst Lubitsch. Raphaelson drew his screenplay from a Miklós László play set in a department store in Budapest; Stewart and Sullavan are co-workers who keep up a sparring match; what they don't know is that they're "lonely hearts" correspondents who have grown to love each other through the mail. Superbly matched, the two actors make triumphant sense out of the conflict. Frank Morgan (*The Wizard of Oz*'s wizard) gives the most touching performance of his career as the shopkeeper who learns his wife is cheating on him with one of his clerks; the perfect cast also includes Joseph Schildkraut, Sara

Continued on p 54

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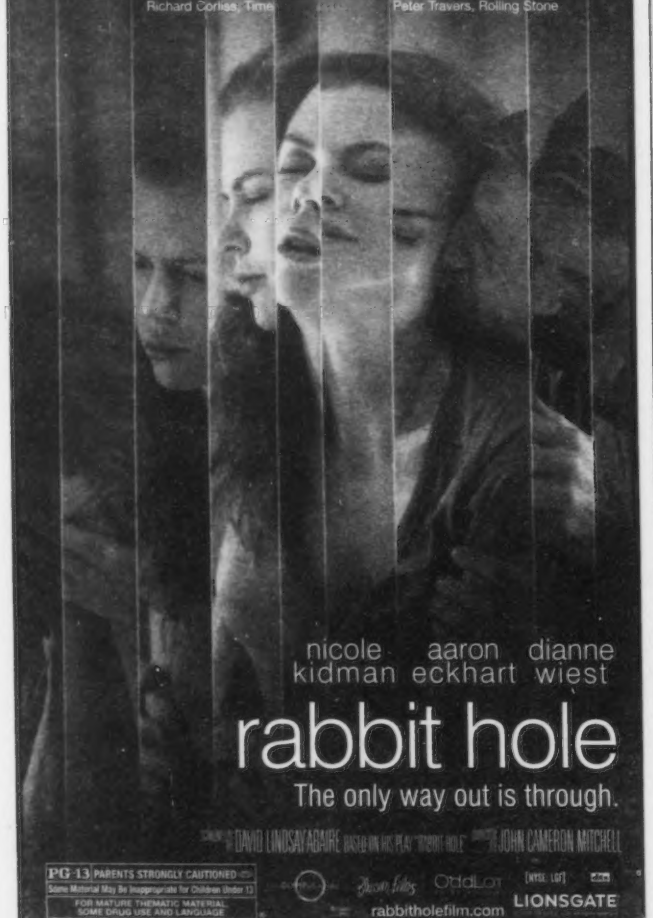

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CAPSULE REVIEWS

Film

Continued from p 53

Haden, William Tracy, and Felix Bressart. | b&w | 99m | South Boston Branch Library: Tues

⊕⊕⊕⊙ **THE SOCIAL NETWORK | 2010** | Ever unpredictable David Fincher and screenwriter Aaron Sorkin didn't try to go high tech with this monumental "bio-pic" about Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg (Jesse Eisenberg). Instead, they took the retro route, drawing on that hallowed film genre the screwball comedy. Eisenberg's Zuckerberg is a latter-day Frank Capra hero, a Jimmy Stewart or Gary Cooper character with all of their spirit and none of their charm. Like them, he takes on the fat cats, a lone warrior against an entrenched system. His weapon, however, isn't decency but genius, and in the deadpan bravura of Eisenberg's performance, that searing intellect glows with charisma. In his climb to the top, Zuckerberg climbs over towering identical twins Tyler and Cameron Winklevoss (Armie Hammer), who are trying to get their own version of a Harvard exclusive social network under way, Eduardo Saverin (Andrew Garfield), his best and perhaps only friend, and Napster prankster and entrepreneur Sean Parker (Justin Timberlake). He ends up with billions of dollars and millions of friends — and if you're wondering whether anyone actually loves him, you're probably also asking whether this is a screwball comedy or a screwball tragedy. | 120m | Stuart Street Playhouse + Embassy + Arlington Capitol + suburbs

SOMEWHERE | 2010 | Peter Keough's review is on page 20. | 97m | Kendall Square

SUMMER PALACE | 2006 | Lou Ye (*Suzhou River*, *Purple Butterfly*) sets this film against the backdrop of student demonstrations, as country girl Hong Yu (Lei Hao) goes to university in Beijing and embarks on a passionate affair with fellow student Zhou Wei (Cuo Xiaodong). | Mandarin + German + Korean | 140m | MFA: Sun

T

⊕⊕ **TANGLED | 2010** | Disney's 50th animated film, a very loose adaptation of "Rapunzel," is less a Grimm take than a tangled twist on the fairy tale. Byron Howard, co-director of *Bolt*, is joined by first-timer Nathan Greno, and together they've woven a 3D, computer-animated musical that strains to imbue the production with the design sensibilities of one of the studio's hand-animated 2D classics. Even composer Alan Menken fails to attain the magical heights he and his late music partner, lyricist Howard Ashman, reached in *Beauty and the Beast*. The original story's prince has become Flynn Rider (voiced by Zachary Levi, TV's *Chuck*), a dashing thief who's knocked out by tower-dwelling shut-in Rapunzel (Mandy Moore), or at least by her trusty frying pan. Oh and in this version, Rapunzel is a golden-tressed princess. Yup, this is Disney, all right. | 92m | Boston Common + Fenway + Fresh Pond + West Newton + suburbs

⊕⊕⊙ **THE TEMPEST | 2010** | Julie Taymor (*Titus*) mostly plays Shakespeare's last and strangest play straight — despite casting Helen Mirren as the magician Prospero. Mirren's Prospera is fierce and creepy and bitter, as she should be. But the magic isn't magical enough. Taymor's production of *The Lion King* stamped her as a past master of masks, puppets, and scrims — yet though here she has the CGI toy box to play with, her kaleidoscopic special effects are familiar from music videos and Target commercials. And the film is full of missed opportunities. The moment when Ariel (a nude, Bowie-esque Ben Whishaw flickering from place to place like a skipping CD) asks whether Prospera loves him should be exquisitely tense but instead passes unremarked. The mother-daughter relationship between Prospera and Felicity Jones's Miranda isn't explored. Worst of all, Taymor cuts Prospera's final speech, which appears instead as a song over the final credits. Alfred Molina and Russell Brand are good as the comic relief of Stephano and Trinculo; David Strathairn as Alonso and Reeve Carney as Ferdinand are, however, allotted only one facial expression apiece. And if the casting of Djimon Hounsou — the film's only black actor — as Caliban was intended as a critique of racism or colonialism, it doesn't work. | 110m | Kendall Square

⊕⊙ **THE TOURIST | 2010** | This might be as silly as *Salt*, the previous film in which Angelina Jolie was cast as a smirking beauty with a mysterious identity, but it's not as entertaining, resembling more an inert knockoff of *Charade* than a recharging of *The Bourne Identity*. Jolie's Elise is partner-in-crime with the elusive Alexander Pierce, who has robbed a mob kingpin of a fortune. Her job is to mislead Pierce's pursuers, who include Scotland Yard (in the persons of Paul Bettany and Timothy Dalton) as well as the requisite Russian goons, by hooking up with the first stranger she meets who resembles her criminal-mastermind paramour. That would be Frank (Johnny Depp), a nerdy tourist from Wisconsin who takes the bait and gets involved in a Venice adventure that's not in his guidebook. Jolie and Depp are no Audrey Hepburn and Cary Grant, and except for the opening surveillance sequence, you'd never guess that Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck also directed the Oscar-winning *The Lives of Others*. | 103m | Boston Common + Fenway + Fresh Pond + Embassy + suburbs

⊕⊕ **TRON: LEGACY | 2010** | This sequel to the 1982 original gives us the continuing adventures of Kevin Flynn (Jeff Bridges), who has disappeared, leaving his son, Sam (Garrett Hedlund), an orphan with his dad's mega corporation, Encom, to deal with. When Sam receives a mysterious message from his dad and is directed to the old man's long-shut-up video arcade, he gets zapped, whereupon he finds himself on dad's cyber grid, which has been souped up with new state-of-the-art CGI but has the same lousy dialogue. Kevin, it seems, has been replaced by the program he himself designed to operate his computer world, so he mopes and shacks up with a comely "isomorphic logarithm" (don't ask) named Quorra (Olivia Wilde) and does Zen meditation in a luxury cave that's a cross between one of the sets from *2001* and a tanning bed. On the plus side, the war machines no longer look like giant floating staples. But the action scenes are the usual hyper-edited splatter. And though director Joseph Kosinski has a way with throbbing techno (by Daft Punk) and spectacular images, most of those images are stolen from other movies, from *Star Wars* to *Blade Runner* to *Triumph of the Will*. | 126m | Boston Common + Fenway + Harvard Square + Somerville Theatre + Chestnut Hill + Arlington Capitol + suburbs

TRUE GRIT | 2010 | Peter Keough's review is on page 20. | 128m | Boston Common + Fenway + Harvard Square + Fresh Pond + West Newton + suburbs

U

⊕⊕⊙ **UNSTOPPABLE | 2010** | Runaway projectiles have always made for intriguing character studies — think *Speed* or *Runaway Train*. *Unstoppable* is that kind of movie, and it's based on true events to boot: how a choo-choo — owing to a combination of incompetence and bad luck — becomes an unmanned missile (a half-mile of fuel and flammable toxins) rampaging at 70 mph through the depressed burbs of Podunk, Pennsylvania. Early rescue attempts fail, so Johnny-on-the-spot engineers Frank Barnes (Denzel Washington) and Will Colson (Chris Pines, a/k/a the new Captain Kirk) jump into the mix but must battle their yin-yang differences as well as the steel beast. The film saddles the impromptu duo with carloads of backstory, but the actors are on their game — and that includes Rosario Dawson, who adds a deft touch as the track manager fighting corporate inanity. As for director Tony Scott, who's always been all over with his camera and cut-happy edits, he here finds a rhythm that delivers suspense from nose to caboose. | 98m | Fresh Pond + suburbs

V

⊕ **VIOLETTE | 1978** | In Paris in 1933, an 18-year-old schoolgirl named Violette Nozière shocked France by poisoning her mother and father. This latter-day Lizzie Borden saga could have made an extraordinary film subject, but director Claude Chabrol is so scrupulous, so wary of speculating about her motives or her psychology, that he forgets to make a movie, offering instead fancy-arty flashbacks and a stoic lead performance by Isabelle Huppert. Stéphane Audran and Jean Carmet play the parents; Jean-François Garreaud is the gigolo Violette takes up with. | French | 124m | MFA: Wed-Thurs

W

⊕⊕⊙ **WHEN HARRY MET SALLY . . . | 1989** | Rob Reiner's romantic comedy follows Harry Burns (Billy Crystal) and Sally Albright (Meg Ryan) during chance encounters leading up to their eventual involvement. There's a lot of talking; fortunately, screenwriter Nora Ephron has a shrewd ear for dialogue and for the apt absurdity, which suits Crystal's dour, deadpan delivery. And at her best Meg Ryan is a good listener. But by the time the two do go to bed, Sally turns out to be too shallow to have been the source of anticipation, and Harry's interior has been so completely verbalized, there's no mystery left. As the pair's two best friends, Carrie Fisher and Bruno Kirby are able to cut through the narcissism that impedes Harry and Sally's intimacy. | 96m | Adams Street Branch Library: Mon

Y

⊕⊙ **YOGI BEAR 3D | 2010** | In this needlessly 3D live-action/CGI adaptation of the Hanna-Barbera staple, the Borscht Belt-style biped (Dan Aykroyd) not only miscalculates his "smarter than the average bear" status but also his appeal beyond 20 minutes. As it is, director Eric Brevig has Yogi dropping a one-liner about his rectum to Ranger Smith (Tom Cavanagh) before the patchy plot even kicks in. Or tries to. In a retread of recent family films featuring forests, Yogi and Boo Boo (Justin Timberlake, continuing to surprise) bumble and scheme to help their human friend woo a girl (Anna Faris), thwart a broadly greedy, environment-savaging politician (Andrew Daly, with shades of Sarah Palin), and embrace the value of "being different." None of it is funny or entertaining, save for a turtle long on tongue but short on screen time. Boring, pointless, and instantly forgettable, this return to Jellystone Park is no picnic. | 83m | Boston Common + Fenway + Fresh Pond + suburbs

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WOMEN SEEKING MEN

SEEKS HONEST MAN
SBF, easygoing, very kind, non-smoker, seeks an honest BM, 28-50, non-smoker, No drugs, who's sincere, mature, responsible, with no baggage, for friendship, possible relationship. ☎335263

SWEET ACTIVE WIDOW
SWF, very kind, adventurous, active, non-smoker, likes dancing, traveling, skiing, hiking, nature, seeks active WM, 58-72, non-smoker, with same interests, for companionship. ☎335554

POSITIVE EXPECTATIONS
Down-to-earth SWF, 50, 5'5", non-smoker, artist, enjoys movies, music, dining out, and beach walking. Seeking laid-back, easygoing SWM, 35-65, non-smoker, for casual dating, possible long-term relationship. Honesty a must! ☎257882

WAITING FOR YOUR CALL
SF, 19, strawberry golden blonde, seeks Asian, Indian or European guy, 19-40, for friendship, dating, maybe more. ☎334981

ONE GOOD WOMAN LEFT
Full-figured SWF, 52, Bethel area, loves nature, music, hiking, the outdoors, art, writing poetry. Looking for SM, 48-64, for friendship, possible long-term relationship. ☎335136

CUTE
I am a female, 5'4", long brunette hair, likes dining out, movies, cable tv. Looking for a male with similar interests, 58-63. Fall River Mass. ☎128994

HAPPY-GO-LUCKY MAN?
Mid 40s, light brown hair, brown eyes, 5'7", 145lbs, looking for responsible man, 55-65, who loves music and loves to entertain, seeking happy-go-lucky guy. I like to dine in and love to cook as I am a Rachel Ray fan. ☎329672

RUNS WITH SCISSORS
DWF, 60s, iconoclast interested in theatre, movies, outdoors, art, spirituality. Seeking emotionally aware, politically liberal, humorous man with similar interests. Mensch a plus. ☎326274

WARMER WEATHER & YOU
Attractive female, 39, seeking mature male (age and race open), with an open mind, diverse interests, cultural events, and who enjoys the city and the countryside. Sense-of-humor and playfulness a plus. Let's enjoy the warmer weather and each other. ☎330419

SEEKING A KIND MAN
Loving, happy DF, 60, looks younger, 5'6", slim, kind-hearted, enjoys music, dancing, dining, movies, beach walks and more. Seeking honest, kind gentleman for friendship and possibly more. Arlington, MA. ☎231714

R U LOOKING FOR ME
SWF, 52, petite, attractive, Framingham area, enjoys long walks, the beach, dining out and music. Looking for SWM, 52-60, kind, compassionate, good SOH. Ashland area. ☎294465

ATTRACTIVE BLONDE
SWF, 68, 5'2", slender, no children, outgoing, caring, warm, romantic, enjoys dancing, walking, traveling and movies. Seeking a SWM, 68-77, trustworthy, attractive, honest, for a long-lasting relationship. Medford, MA area. ☎201913

YOU MIGHT BE THE ONE
DBF, 57, 5'6", looking for a male, 55-65, race open, who has a sense of humor, loves laughing, the beach, cuddling, holding hands, all the good things in life. I'm in the Boston area. ☎333010

LOVELY, SHAPELY...
DWF, blonde, 5'7", intelligent, responsible, easygoing, without children, interested in holistic medicine, Jewish mysticism, metaphysics, Italian culture and fine dining, literature, animals, lively conversation. Seeking kind, honest, educated professional SWM, 49+, for serious relationship. ☎253651

BEAUTIFUL BLONDE
Sincere, intelligent, sensitive, and very caring. Interests include people, music, philosophy, cooking; looking for a gentleman, 55-70, with qualities. You won't be disappointed. Thank you. ☎476812

RETIRING
SWF, 54, 5'7", average weight, blonde, looking for someone to retire with and enjoy the next phase of our lives. I want to travel and explore the world, and also love to take long walks. ☎334185

TAKE A CHANCE
SBF, 52, 5'9", enjoys cooking, reading, day trips, watching old movies, listening to music. Seeking SBM, 50-55, prefer non-smoker, D/D-free, with same interests. ☎334329

SUMMER'S OVER...
SWF, attractive, fit, 50s, md/hazel, looking forward to football games, fall hikes, the ballet season and red wine by the fireplace. Seeking emotionally/financially available S/DWM, with sense of humor, for companionship or possible relationship. ☎322744

ARLINGTON WOMAN
Divorced European female, 48, 5'4", slender, attractive, clean, neat, honest, caring, down-to-earth, likes socializing, seeks tall male with similar qualities for long-term relationship. Metrowest area. ☎333006

HOW ABOUT ME?!
SBF, 41, 5'8", medium build, non-smoker, very attractive, black hair, slanty eyes, light-skinned black, looking for a SWM only, 41-65, who's honest, caring, for friendship first leading to possible relationship. ☎331736

ARE YOU READY?
SBF, 52, 150lbs, black hair, career-oriented, professional singer and law school student looking for a SBM, 52-57, who's also career-minded, and a singer too, to settle down and have a family. ☎327784

SEEKING COMPANION
SWF, 60, non-smoker, loves to enjoy the simple things in life like taking walks, dining out, going to the movies and living life to the fullest. Looking for a SWM, 55-60, non-smoker, with similar interests. ☎331161

YOU AND ME HAVING FUN
SBF, 42, self-employed, smoker, likes walks, dancing, rollerskating, going out, seeks SM, 44-50, to share fun, friendship leading to possible long-term relationship. ☎333806

LIFE IS GOOD!
SBF, 40, 5'5", caramel complexion, average build, smoker, loves mexican food, movies, bowling, the beach, traveling, seeks SM, 40-45, for friendship, possible long-term relationship. N.Providence area. ☎333847

WIDOW
WIWF, weight proportioned to height, college-educated, good SOH, seeking a SWCM, 55-70, weight proportioned to height. Must be a Christian, preferably a Episcopalian as religion is important, college-educated, with minimum of an Associate's degree. Likes to go the beach, likes the outdoors, spend time with friends. Prefer summer weather. ☎332839

EASY TO GET ALONG WITH
SWF, 57, 5'3", long auburn hair, blue eyes, Irish descent, easy to get along with, enjoys the outdoor life, camping, animals, the beach, mountains. Seeking SM, 49-63, with some similar interests. ☎334862

SEEKING SWEET GUY
Irish SWF, petite, brunette/green, seeks SWM, 30-50, British or Irish man from R.I. who loves cooking and animals/pets. I love my pet bunny rabbit Erin. I want kids. ☎117110

ROMANCE AWAITS
DWF, 60s, 5'8", auburn hair with blonde highlights, brown eyes, alluring, passionate, cultured, diverse interests. Seeking self-realized, passionate DWM, 55+, 5'10"+, for long-term relationship. Let's make wonderful, lasting memories with you in the near future! I reside in the Rhode Island area. ☎298194

SPECIAL LADY
SWF, smoker, likes art, music, staying home, and everything in between, seeks SM, 21-60, for friendship first leading to possible long-term relationship. ☎334978

DO YOU EXIST?
If you are honest, kind, caring and compassionate as I am, then leave me a message. WF, 5'3", 200lbs, reddish-brown/brown, who wants a genuine gentleman. ☎320558

ACTIVE AND SMART
WF, 63, looks younger, nurse, seeks SM, 60-70, non-smoker, who is healthy, energetic, active, honest, self-aware and can be both social and alone. Let's talk, laugh, cook, travel, garden and just enjoy each other's company. ☎330179

MUSICOLOGIST SEEKS LTR
SWF, 41, 5'7", 150lbs, N/S, enjoys book clubs, live theater, movies, concerts, museums, dining out, long conversations. Seeking SWM, 41-55, N/S, intellectual, kind, honest, for LTR. ☎324788

BLUE-EYED BRUNETTE
SWF, 64, HW proportionate, seeks secure Italian or Greek man, 55-62, who is attractive, likes to travel, has a good sense of humor. ☎327977

BRING THE LOVE
SBF, 19, looking for love in all the wrong places! Looking for a SBM, 18-26, who can show love. ☎328528

SENSUOUS AND SEXY
A fun, quality, attractive and intelligent SWPF, 53, enjoys the stepping out on the scene and romantic times. I get involved with theater, travel, dining and all outdoor activities. N/S, no children at home, seeks the same. Fairhaven, MA. ☎115522

SPRING ROMANCE
SWF, 48, looking for someone who is honest, handsome, and a good person, 38-48, long hair, white or Hispanic, for friendship, maybe more. I enjoy music, clubbing, bowling, movies. ☎329165

SINGLE MOM
HF, dark/hazel, full-figured, has children at home, likes walks, going to movies and having fun. Looking for SBM, 27-45, for dining, maybe more. ☎330189

SEEKING ATTRACTIVE WM
DWF, 5'2", blondish-brown/hazel, affectionate, caring, seeking a SWM, 59-69. I enjoy dancing, music, candlelight dinners, travel, getaway weekends. Very romantic and compassionate. Seeking friendship first, maybe more later. ☎331061

ATTRACTIVE BLONDE
SWF, 57, N/S, seeks fun-loving male, 54-66, who likes to go for walks, enjoy the company of family and friends, movies, outdoor activities, gardening, just having fun! ☎331189

EDUCATED VIOLINIST
For the last 35 years I've been a teacher, mother, security guard, biochemist and nurse. I'm looking for a man who is educated and has his feet on the ground. Looking for someone between the ages 45-60. ☎409705

SEEK A TRUE GENTLEMAN
Outgoing, active woman enjoys walking, sports, politics and more. Looking for a very easygoing WM, 75-80, to share dinners, conversation and possibly more. ☎328678

AWAITING YOUR CALL
SWF, 37, teacher, enjoys sports, baseball, hockey, basketball, football, shopping, movies, travel. Looking for attractive SWM, 35-43, who is honest, trustworthy, has a good sense of humor, likes sports, romance and can make me laugh ☎324965

CUTE EXOTIC GIRL
I'm a cute, fun, smart single gal who is looking for a man with the same qualities. Let's meet and see if we hit it off! ☎327303

SEEKING A GREAT GUY
SHF, 24, just finished college, working full-time. Looking to meet someone, 24-35, for casual friendship that, if all goes well, can turn into long-term relationship. Please be clean-cut, independent, and good-looking! Talk to you soon! ☎329894

GREEN EYED LADY...
looking for long term relationship with quality man. You must be single, 39-53, 5'9"+/- 185+, professional/have a good job, financially stable, be responsible, healthy, not have any major addictions, non-smoker. Must love the outdoors, beach, kissing, holding hands, movies, and travel. Me: I am a lover of life. ☎330055

THINKING OF YOU
SWF, 58, 5'3", 106lbs, sitting on my red sofa reading a book. I'm looking for a SWM, 58-62, non-smoker, social-drinker, who enjoys cooking, dining out, plays, travel, watching movies at home, and romantic evenings for possible long-term relationship. I'm from the Groveland area. ☎335035

GREEN EYED LADY...
looking for love. Hi, I'm a 44 y/o female with a pretty face; dazzling smile and bright green eyes. I'm a sexy professional who owns a home and is stable. I'm looking for a professional man who is fun, loving, and sexy and wants an long-term relationship. I await you! ☎330210

MEN SEEKING WOMEN

EBONY, WHERE ARE YOU?
SM, 5'10", 180lbs, looking for a pretty, no-attitude BF for friendship and casual relationship first. ☎333321

SOUTH SHORE ONLY
WM, 68, smoker, would like to meet a lady, 60-68, for companionship. If interested, give me a call soon. ☎330476

SOUL MATE
DWM, 55, 5'7", 125lbs, honest, kind, caring, compassionate, light smoker, seeking a woman, 35-55, with similar qualities for friendship and possibly more. ☎335789

A VERY NICE GENTLEMAN
DWM, 54, 5'7", 125lbs, Irish born, likes going for walks in the park, watching movies, holding hands, candlelight dinners. Seeking SWF, 40-60, who's similar, caring, easygoing, romantic, affectionate, for possible long-term relationship. ☎326094

FRIENDSHIP AND DATING
SWM, 54, 155lbs, brown/blue, honest and sincere, likes to travel, dine out, take walks on the beach. Looking for long-term relationship with SF, 20-55. ☎334238

NORTH SHORE
Italian SWM, 56, 5'4", 130lbs, business and home owner, salt-n-pepper hair, height/weight proportionate, in good shape, enjoys working out, beaches, dancing, more. W.LTM, SF, with similar interests. ☎122340

ONE GOOD MAN LEFT
SWM, 57, 6', 215lbs, blonde/blue, seeks affectionate, honest, caring S/DWF, 25-60, no children at home, who enjoys classic rock, jazz, movies, restaurants, quiet times. Friendship, long-term relationship, possible marriage. ☎334872

IVORY SEEKS EBONY
SWM, 43, 6', 190lbs, good-looking Italian, in shape, seeks B/HF, 30-50, thick is ok, for friendship, fun and more. ☎335685

TIME TO HAVE FUN!
SWM, 60, 5'10", 215lbs, non-smoker, likes playing golf, dancing, walks on the beach, flea markets, weekend getaways, dining out. Seeking SWF, 50-60, easygoing, good communicator, romantic, for friendship first maybe more. ☎729585

INSTRUCTOR TRAINER
Into a romance as we horse people say. DWM, 56, 6', good build, gentle, kind, understanding. Easy to talk to. Would like to meet long haired, independent, attractive female. Please call. ☎128888

WANT TO FIND YOU!
Young-looking SWM, 70+, 5'10", 175lbs, non-smoker, down-to-earth, easygoing, seeks a special WF, 48+, very slender, kind, honest, upbeat, to share life's experiences together leading to possible loving serious relationship. ☎332606

JAZZ LOVER
SWM, 55, 6', wine merchant who enjoys live jazz/blues, fine wine and dining out, seeks SWF, 35-45, with similar interests. ☎963454

KIND AND GENUINE
Communicative, extroverted, affectionate, also urban, artsy and very funny SWM, 59, considered very good-looking, looks 47. Seeking SWF, 40-55, to be my future best friend. She is kindest to herself and kind to others. ☎112555

NEED A SWEETIE!
Hard-working, independant DWM, clean-cut, nice-looking, considerate, passionate, 50, 5'9", 165lbs, dark/brown, non-smoker, non-drinker, enjoys dancing, exercise, long walks on the beach. Seeking sweet, sincere SWF, 40-62, for possible long-term relationship. ☎133708

SEEKS ASIAN WOMAN
SWM, 50, brown/blue, good-looking, in shape, good SOH, honest, down-to-earth, seeks long-term relationship with Asian woman, honest, loyal, with a good sense of humor. ☎143472

EVERETT AREA
SWM, 57, 5'8", 150lbs, non-smoker, likes bowling, dancing, talk walks, good conversations, watching movies. Seeking a nice sweet lady, 30-60, race not important, slim, kids ok, for friendship first maybe long-term relationship. ☎313694

SEEKING MY MATCH
DM, 53, non-smoker, light drinker, outgoing, funny, upbeat and confident, affectionate, likes to make people laugh. Seeking honest, caring, outgoing, affectionate, down-to-earth SF, 40-56, for movies, comedy clubs, dancing, dining, taking walks. ☎325557

ARE U OUT THERE?
SWM, 43, brown/hazel, 220lbs, loves the ocean, movies, quiet times, togetherness, fun nights on the town. Seeking passionate, fun-loving SF, full-figured a plus, to share the good things in life. ☎343562

WALTHAM AREA
Attractive SWM, mid 50s, financially/emotionally secure, loves all music, especially jazz and blues. I'm enjoying my beautiful new home. Seeking good-hearted woman, 30-50, very light smoker, race unimportant, older kids ok, for friendship first, companionship, leading to possible LTR. ☎349078

CONVERSATIONALIST?
SM enjoys sports, walks, being outdoors, movies, dining out, relaxing at home and more. Looking for a female, 30-48, who cares about her appearance and has similar interests. ☎325933

FIND LOVE IN 2010
SBM, 36, non-smoker, no children, sexy eyes, romantic, loves to sing and write. Seeking similar female, 20-50, who is sweet, funny, and wants to be treated right. ☎326335

NOT AFRAID...
to get your hands dirty? Attractive single guy, 33, 5'8", slender, bright, humorous, athletic and fit seeking pretty SWF, 20s-30s, who is comfortable with her look, not afraid to get her hands dirty, and wants to meet someone to get to know and go out with. ☎327302

FRIENDSHIP AND KIDS
Metro West WM, 40, 5'7", 155lbs, clean cut, athletic, non-smoker, N/kids. Seeking open-minded WF, 30-45, for friendship and kids. Looks unimportant, being family-oriented is. Be in average shape or better and be looking to start an immediate family. Non-smoker, N/Kids please. ☎318149

FUN AND NORMAL
Fit SBPM, 48 easygoing and open-minded. I enjoy movies, sports and good conversation. Seeks a woman who is a college graduate, 30-50, of any race with similar interests. ☎329254

LET'S MEET
SM, 39, two children not at home, would like to meet a secure, goal-oriented SF, 25-50, for dating. If interested, please give me a call. ☎329426

ARE YOU THAT SOMEONE?
Degreed SWM, 41, 5'3", two teenagers, loves spending time with friends, beaches, photography. Looking for SF, 28-45, who is fun and funny, likes being outside, goofing around. ☎330575

MEN SEEKING MEN

TALL DARK AND HANDSOME
GWM, 48, 5'9", 271lbs, non-smoker, likes watching sci-fi movies, comedies, exercise, walks, go traveling, good conversations. Seeking a GWM, 40-50, who's intelligent, kind, trustworthy, for friendship first maybe more. Warren. ☎326695

SEEKING A BOYFRIEND
GWM, 47, 6', 280lbs, easygoing, wants to meet a younger male, 35-40, to share good times with in the greater Methuen area. ☎322884

OLD GUY SEEKS SAME
Retired SWM, 78, slim, exercises regularly, non-smoker, enjoys music, long walks, dramatic movies, seeks WM, 74-82, non-smoker, for friendship. ☎335224

LOOKING FOR MATE
GWM, late 40s, in shape and works out, easygoing, indoor/outdoor person, enjoys movies, sports, and looking for someone to share it with. Central MA. ☎315208

SEEKING BOYFRIEND
GWM, 30s, very attractive, very humorous, fun, affectionate, seeking foreign boyfriend, in his 20s, for beach, movies, dining out and possible relationship. ☎331690

BOYFRIEND WANTED
Athletic WM, 62, 5'8", 137lbs, enjoys the arts, film, fashion, working out. Seeking PM, 58-68. Serious replies only. ☎331353

WOMEN SEEKING WOMEN

AUBURN AREA
Soft, sweet, smooth, shy, passionate, caring woman, 45, enjoys the outdoors, the ocean, being outside, plays, movies at home, holistics. Seeking similar female, 39-55. ☎335439

LOOKING FOR LOVE
GWF, 63, 5'7", non-smoker, looking for non-smoker gay females for companionship possible long-term relationship. Someone easygoing and good SOH. I enjoy movies, reading, beaches, laughing, etc and romance. Call me. ☎329750

LET'S MEET
SBF, 45, non-smoker, 5'8", attractive, dread locks, good sense-of-humor, Carribean descent, and speak 4 languages. Looking for one special femme, 38-55, who believes in romance, trust, culture, politics, and passion. I love cooking, the outdoors, theater, travel, walks on the beach, and dining out on Friday nights. ☎313791

FRIENDSHIP AND FUN
GWF, 45, rubenesque, blonde, 5'2", non-smoker, non-drinker, No drugs, seeking GF, for open-minded discussions, activities. I enjoy movies, arcades and comedy clubs. Melrose area. ☎328622

BEST FRIEND
GF, 50+, seeks same with sincere, caring heart. Sense of humor a must. Looking for that special lady in my life as a friend. Stoneham/North Shore area preferred. ☎464291

M - Male F - Female S - Single D - Divorced W - Widowed C - Gay Bi - Bisexual W - White B - African-American/Black H - Hispanic A - Asian J - Jewish C - Christian D/D - free - Drug + Disease Free WLTM - Would Like To Meet

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court

Docket No. SU10C0379CA

Suffolk Probate and Family Court
24 New Chardon Street
PO Box 9667
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 788-8300

In the matter of: Martha Braniff Duffy
OF: Allston, MA

To all persons interested in petition described: A petition has been presented by Martha Braniff Duffy requesting that: Yingxin Chen be allowed to change her name as follows: Martha Braniff Duffy-Botto

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT: **Boston**
ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: **01/06/2011**

WITNESS, Hon. John M Smoot, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 3, 2010
Richard Iannella, Register of Probate.

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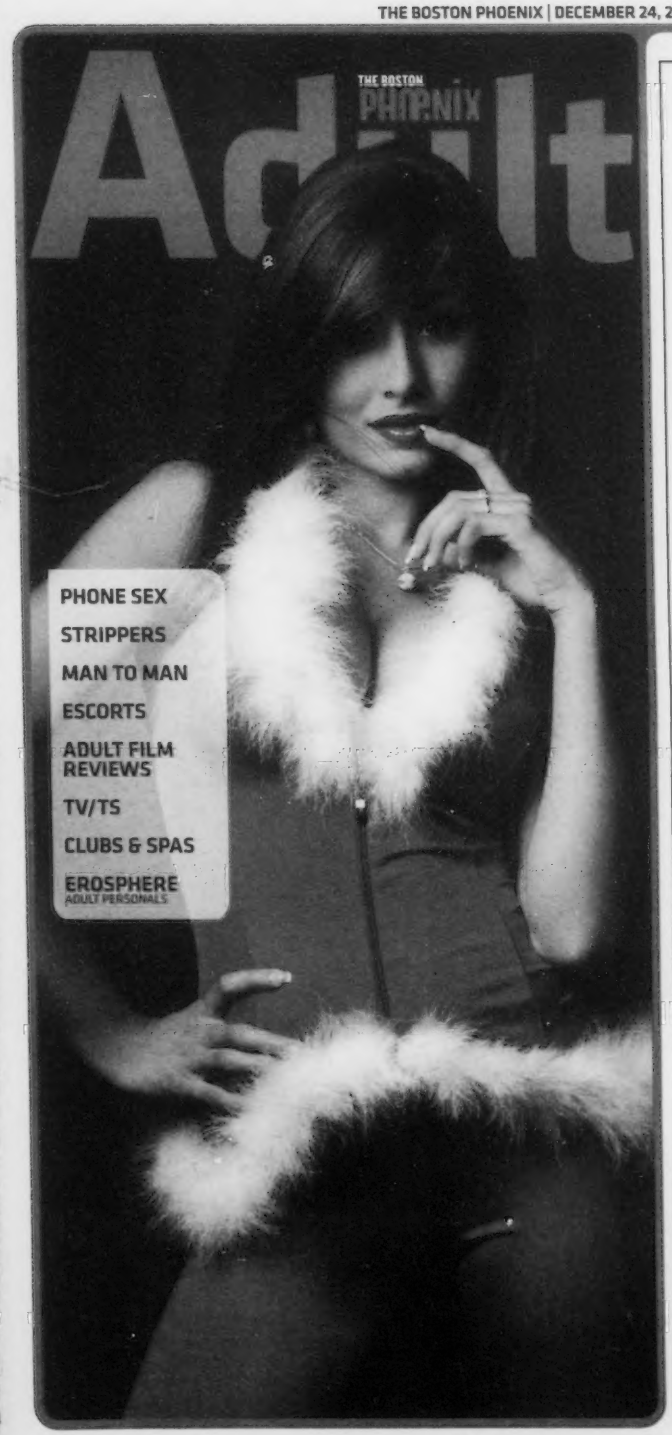

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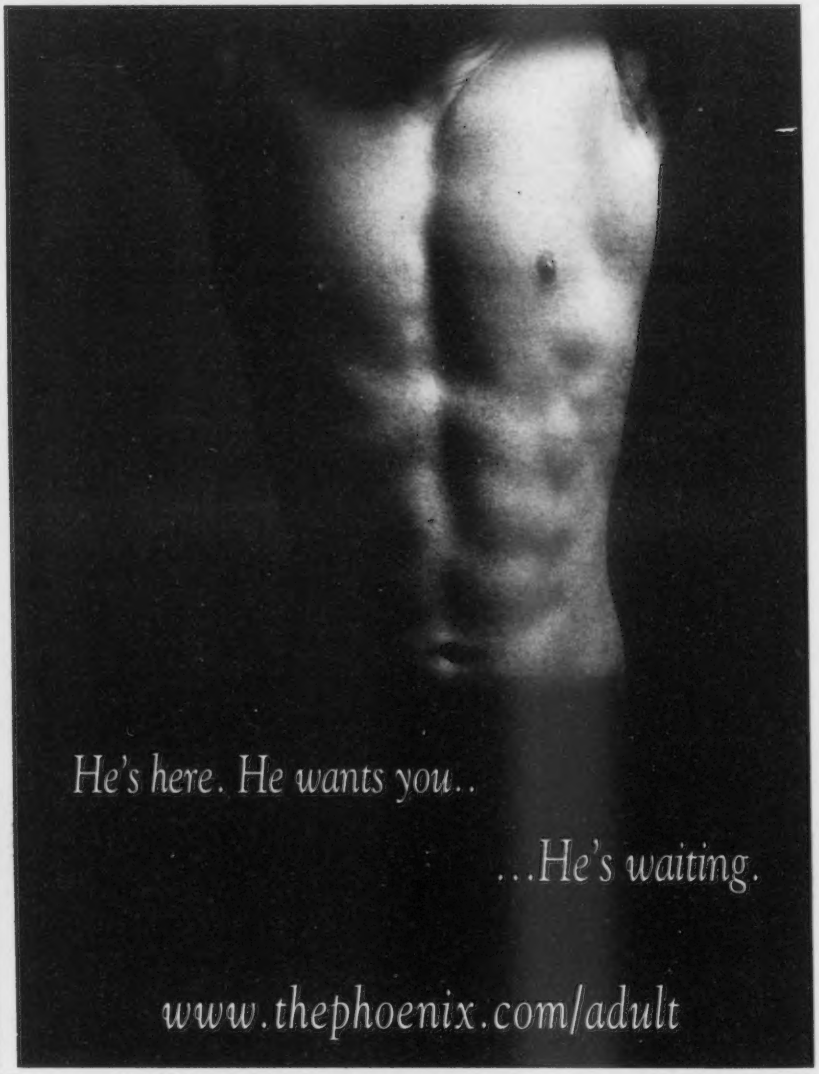

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Dear DMBBB,

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For more information, go to www..jadednight.com. Happy New Year!

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★PORN REVIEWS

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THE FLINTSTONES: A XXX PARODY

Starring: Hillary Scott, Brooke Lee Adams, Misty Stone, Hayden Winters, Anthony Rosano, Rod Fontana, Dale Dabone, Seth Gamble, Peter O'Tool
Director: Will Ryder • Studio: New Sensations

Another perversion of a happy childhood memory is just what the doctor ordered. As far as XXX parodies go, New Sensations pulled out all the stops for this one. . The feel of the movie is very much paced like one of the cartoons complete with catch phrases and canned laugh track. The costumes and sets are surprisingly complex and the actors channel their cartoon counterparts with a shocking degree of accuracy. It's incredibly similar to the Flintstones we all know and love except that Betty and Wilma are bisexual and doing it behind Fred's back, Pebbles and Bam Bam are both 18 and horny teenagers who fuck the hell out of each other, and Fred's boss has a tasty black secretary who aims to please. The Pebbles/Bam Bam scene is the highlight of this one as newcomer Hayden Winters is not only completely adorable, but watching her fuck is an otherworldly experience. The DVD also comes with an extra disc with a "party version" with just the clean parts and no sex, a blooper reel, a behind the scenes featurette, a bonus non-Flintstones sex scene.

NYMPHOMANIAC

Starring: Raven Alexis, Tori Black, Alanah Rae, Phoenix Marie, Krissy Lynn, Breanne Benson, Jim F, Tommy Gunn, Manuel Ferrara, Mick Blue, Scott Nails, Mr Pete
Director: Robby D. • Studio: Digital Playground

This Raven Alexis vehicle is stunningly shot on gorgeous hi def and that combined with the amazing directon of Robby D. makes for one of the hottest porno movies of the year. Raven is a girl who is addicted to sex with anyone with a heartbeat (demonstrated in an opening scene that is so fucking hot I needed to turn up the air conditioning) and goes to a support group to "seek help". Surprisingly, she finds that the other nymphos are having the same trouble abstaining, particularly Scott Nails who she attaches herself to with more than just her pussy. Tori Black is the hypocritical group leader who also has her eyes on Scott, who in turn is too busy fucking two girls in the shower. Follow all that? Suffice to say, it appears that a room full of pornstars piedging abstinence is a lost cause culminating in an orgy that needs to be seen to believed. All in all, while short on plot, this is a fantastic porno that is beautifully shot and should be at the top of anyone's short list.

TEEN SPLASH

Starring: Abby Lexus, Amia Miley, Tanner Mayes, Kimberly Gates, Victoria White, Chris Johnson, Dane Cross, Johnny Sins, Marco Banderas, Mick Blue
Director: Zander • Studio: Wicked Pictures

Wicked's latest "All Sex" DVD is chock full of your favorite barely legal beauties getting banged in or around swimming pools. With no storyline or plot to get in the way of the fucking, this is a seriously hot movie! Kimberly Gates opens things up by fingering her hairy little beaver while fantasizing about getting fucked in the pool on a flotation device that seems to be custom made for oral sex in the water. Uber-cutie Tanner Mayes is up next in a hot fling that starts poolside and winds up indoors where things really heat up. The delightfully slutty Kimberly White makes an appearance as well, getting her bald little box stuffed in the sun by the ubiquitous guy with the huge cock who seems to be omnipresent in this one. If you've made it this far without busting a nut, you're in for a couple more scenes featuring Amia Miley and Abby Lexus that while pretty similar, are both really fun to watch.

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Boston male, 5'10'', 190lbs, loves to give good head. You must host, but you won't be disappointed! Box 98731 (xp2/20)
DOWN ON THE CAPE
6', brown/blue, 165lbs, 777 d*ck, tight ass, into f*cking, getting f*cked, making out, body contact. Box 44821 (xp2/21)
TOTAL BOTTOM ISO TOTAL TOP
You must be able to host! I aim to please. Afternoons. Box 11661 (xp2/22)
I CAN GO ALL NIGHT
5'10'', 220lbs, 8'' cut, hazel eyes, light complexion, muscular build, lots of stamina. Looking for Rhode Island men. Let's talk! Box 44321 (xp2/22)
WANT TO PLAY
I can host if you want to hook up! 5'8'', 160lbs, nice package, down-to-earth and lots of fun. Will not disappoint. Box 81111 (xp2/22)
BE MY BOTTOM
Looking for a bottom in Boston area. Friendship into LTR would be nice. Box 83371 (xp2/22)
READY TO GO
6M, 5'11'', 220lbs, 7'' cut, medium build, total bottom, looking for a total top. You must be able to host. Available after 4pm throughout the week. Box 11371 (xp2/23)
F*CKFEST
Seeking guys, under 37, who have a monster in their pants. Do you want a long f*ckfest with a cool, good-looking older guy? Call me! Box 42061 (xp2/23)
KINKY SUBMISSIVE
Looking for a bondage, rubber lover to turn me into his slave. I love heavy, inescapable bondage, being gagged and forced to service. Box 40581 (xp2/23)
BI-CURIOUS
Married WM, 6'1'', 225lbs, looking to fulfill some curiosities. Seeking big, clean, discreet BM who can make my wishes come true. I have no experience. Box 90771 (xp2/23)
MY MOUTH IS HUNGRY
I'm just waiting to s*ck and swallow a big p**ck. I promise to make you feel good! Box 27262 (xp1/21)
COUPLE
Submissive bottom crossdresser, mid 40s, and top, mid 50s, looking for new friends to get together and make friends with. Share your fantasies and desires! Mid Cape area. Box 17012 (xp2/24)
SOUTH SHORE AREA
Male, 43, construction worker, 6.5'' cut, discreet, curious, has a girlfriend. Looking to experience something new. Box 96222 (xp12/13)
HOT SEX AND PLEASANT COMPANY
If you want hot sex and pleasant company on a possibly steady basis, with a very cute, no BS, fun crossdresser, guaranteed to give you a bone in your pants, call! Seeking total top with 8 thick inches or more, and a nice, honest guy. Age open. When you walk in the door I promise you'll like me a lot. I have a slim, silky smooth, laser-treated bottom. I'll worship your c*ck and balls and deepthroat your lovemuscle while looking up at you with my submissive, puppy dog eyes. Box 39252 (xp2/20)
DOMINANT PRE-OP
5'9'', 138lbs, wants you to lick her feet, worship her heels, and admire her c*ck. If you do what I say when I say it, and I know you will, I'll let you open your mouth wide and receive the c*ck. Box 54792 (xp2/19)
HORNY MASCULINE GUY
Looking to hook up in Boston or nearby. 6'3'', goatee, blue eyes, works out, 45 years-old, 7.5'' cut and thick, totally uninhibited, loves exploring sexuality. Box 69942 (xp12/8)
ISO CD/TV/TS
Financially secure BiWM, 58, looking for a 30-50 year-old CD/TV/TS for friendship, possible LTR. Cannot host. Box 45052 (xp12/29)
LOOKING FOR A SISSY?
Northshore male, 6.5'', good-looking, wants to be your sissy in stockings, pantyhose, nylons and more. Box 95212 (xp12/18)
KINKY SUBMISSIVE GUY
Into leather, bondage, discipline, likes it rough and tight. Looking to be totally disciplined. Box 40582 (xp2/23)
SUBMISSIVE C*CK-S*CKER
Do you want to fill my mouth with your c**m? Just whip your d**k out and get at it! Box 44732 (xp2/10)
SEEKING SEXY PRE-OP
Do you love to wear heels and lingerie? Handsome man, early 30s, beautiful 9'' c**ck. Leave a message, you won't be disappointed! Box 37362 (xp1/21)
COUPLE SEEKING WILD TIMES
My old lady has gorgeous f**ts, big red nipples, and the tightest p**sy you can imagine. I have a thick, hairy c**ck and a tight ass. Always ready, willing and able to get down and dirty. Box 36922 (xp2/23)
LET'S GET TOGETHER
BiWM, 56, Fitchburg area, looking for a guy, 40+, for regular get-togethers. I'm a bottom and love wearing panties and thighhighs while having my ass and nipples played with. Box 93972 (xp1/9)
SEEKING M/F COUPLE
Male, 36, 9'' c**k, looking to get s**ked and f**ked by a guy and a girl couple. I also love to cross-dress, if that interests you. Box 96232 (xp2/21)
ARE YOU 18-22?
Fit, have a nice body and c**k? Love getting s**ked and licked straight to orgasm and beyond? Like having a pair of lips tightening around the head of your c**k while your balls are massaged? Like having your hot nuts s**ked one at a time until you explode? Leave me a number. I'd love to s**k your c**k! Box 96092 (xp1/10)
IS THAT YOU?
BiM, 51, seeking males, 55+, to get together for some hot man-on-man action. Box 99172 (xp12/4)
SERVICE ME
Boston area BM, with a beard, 7'' cut, 220lbs, medium build, looking to be serviced to completion. If this interests you, call me! Box 11372 (xp2/24)
LOVE TO WEAR PANTIES?
I want to get together with any TS or men who love to wear panties. Call me! Box 93422 (xp2/2)
LOOKING TO HOOK UP
I love being rimmed and s**ked to completion. Calling from Malden. Box 10002 (xp2/16)
LOVE TO DRESS UP
Love wearing heels and nylons, tight thong panties. Seeking anybody who is interested in some fun! Box 11582 (xp12/18)
PANTY-WEARING PIG BOTTOM BEAR
52, very straight-acting and looking, 200lbs, shaved head, well-trimmed salt-n-pepper beard, clean and discreet, looking to serve and service somebody on a longer term basis. Extremely oral and willing to do anything. Box 37392 (xp2/19)
FUN AT YOUR PLACE
BM, 5'11'', medium build, big butt bottom, looking for a top. You must host. Box 11662 (xp2/22)
TIE ME UP
Latino, 22, 5'11'', 170lbs, six-pack, in great shape, hot and horny, looking for somebody local who can host. Love to be tied up and turned into your bottom boy slave. Box 10062 (xp1/4)
I LOVE TO SHOW OFF
GWM, Rhode Island, 5'7'', 166lbs, 7.5'' cut, likes to do everything and show off his body. Let's chat. Box 11022 (xp2/24)
REGULAR GUY
6', 185lbs, 7.5'', shoots big loads. Married, looking to get my c**k sucked by Bi guys or other married guys. Open to couples as well. Box 20811 (xp2/12)
BI GUY
Looking for discreet hook-ups in the Dedham area. Box 51091 (xp12/27)
LOOKING TO PLAY
Boston man, 5'10'', 170lbs, 7.5'', moderately hairy, looking to play with another hot guy. Box 82651 (xp2/14)
TOTAL BODY WORSHIP
C**k, balls, nipples, ass**le, feet... love f**cking, licking, nursing, lapping, talking. I just love the manhole! Submissive bottom, 5'10'', 175lbs, quiet, discreet, D/D-free, 5'10'', 175lbs, long brownish hair. South Shore, lives alone, would love your company! Box 98691 (xp12/31)
HOT GUY
6', 200lbs, versatile, looking to hook up and have some fun! Call me back, you won't be disappointed! Box 62391 (xp11/28)
HORNY? I AM!
Let's have some fun! Looking for an oral relationship I'm 5'10'', 160lbs, 7'' cut, can host, loves to s**k d**k. Give me a call! Box 11341 (xp12/22)
ISO HOT ORAL
BiM, 55, looking for some hot oral. Let's get together for some fun around the holidays! Box 93441 (xp12/5)
GOOD AT WHAT I DO
Male, 5'10'', brown eyes, 8'' cut, hairy c**k and balls, likes a good blowjob. Also loves to give back massages. Looking for somebody in Southern NH who can host. Box 96731 (xp2/15)
JUST A MARRIED GUY
Looking to experiment with man-on-man oral sex. New at this. North Shore. I'm hoping anything goes orally. Box 92651 (xp11/30)
BI CURIOUS
Married WM, no experience, clean and discreet, late 30s, handsome, nice ass, looking for an older male, 60+, masculine. Box 90771 (xp2/20)
MASCULINE BI GUY
Looking to hook up in the late afternoons. Looking to travel. Box 97861 (xp2/9)
WHAT'S UP, GUYS?
5'9'', 160lbs, 7'' cut, smooth, south of Boston, looking for anybody who needs their very own c**k-s**cker/wor-shipper. Box 61101 (xp2/13)
LET'S HAVE SOME FUN!
50s, 6', 200lbs, looking for other men. I love to s**ck c**k while jerking off.. Box 44721 (xp2/14)
SEEKING MALE/FEMALE COUPLE
Handsome WM, 39, looking for your wife or girlfriend to sit on my face while I look down to see you s**cking my big c**k. Box 20861 (xp2/15)
ORAL YOU'VE ONLY DREAMED ABOUT
Seeking a guy, 18-22, with a nice body, in good shape, who would love to experience an awesome c**k-s**cking. I would love to feel my tongue run across your throbbing shaft and hot balls until you shoot a mammoth load. Box 96091 (xp1/12)
NICE CHUB
Cranston area, looking for sensual fun with a chaser or another chub. Love to make out and have fun! Box 97101 (xp12/28)
SEEKING FUN FRIENDSHIP
Looking for a guy, 60-70, for friendship, possibly more. Leave a message. Box 44981 (xp2/14)
MAKE ME YOUR SLAVE
Latino, 22, 5'11'', 170lbs, six-pack, in great shape, looking for someone to be my daddy. Box 10061 (xp12/21)
OLDER DOM TOP GUY
Providence. Seeking young college boys, 18-24, for fun! Box 10971 (xp12/9)
LET'S HANG OUT
Puerto Rican/Black man on the down-low would like to meet Hispanic male who is looking for not just sex but also companionship. Box 11001 (xp2/11)
LOVE TO DO EVERYTHING
Into showing off my body, having sex, jerking off, speedos. Smithfield/Greenville area and up for almost anything! Box 11021 (xp2/11)
VERY DISCREET
Cranston area male, 42, 5'3'', works overnights. Looking for a young male, 18-30, disease-free, to experiment with. Box 44861 (xp2/4)
VERSATILE BOTTOM BEAR
43, 5'9'', 235lbs, brown/blue, moderately hairy, looking for fun! Box 11181 (xp11/28)
SEXY FUN, MAYBE MORE?
GWM, 40, looking for some c**k and maybe a deeper connection! Boston area. Box 94421 (xp12/7)
SPRINGFIELD AREA BOTTOM
6'2'', 200lbs, blond/blue, looking for a masculine top to hook up with. Box 11451 (xp12/30)
HOT AND HORNY
I love getting off and I'm looking for some company. Small d**k, big balls. Wanna play? Box 77022 (xp2/15)
LOVE TO BE A SISSY
Male, 50, North Shore, loves dressing up in stockings, negligees and lipstick, falling to my knees, and being told what to do. Box 11042 (xp12/17)
ISO SEXY CD
Rhode Island area, looking for a sexy CD to service on a regular basis. Box 95332 (xp2/12)
ISO COUPLE TO TEACH ME
WM, in good shape, would like to get together with a married couple and have the woman show me how to s**ck my first man off while she watches. Box 37032 (xp12/15)
GOOD-LOOKING GUY
6', 185lbs, north of Boston, 7.5'' cut, low-hanging balls, looking for guys who like to s**ck my c**k with their wives or girlfriends, or watch while their girlfriends do it. Box 20812 (xp2/12)
CASUAL GET-TOGETHERS
Middle-aged guy who loves to CD hopes to meet discreet guy who also enjoys dressing up. Box 77082 (xp2/13)
BI-CURIOUS
Versatile HM, 5'6'', 160lbs, shaved head, goatee, shaved balls and ass, 6'' uncut, D/D-free, seeks N/S, N/D, smooth hardbody like me, 20-35, shaved ass and balls, toned and fit, versatile, 7.5''+, or bi couples. I have a lot of toys we can play with. Box 92762 (xp2/14)
LOOKING FOR CD/TS
Just a normal guy looking to have some clean, oral sex and experimentation with a CD or TS. Box 92652 (xp12/2)
SEEKING PIG BOTTOM...
or a top with a bottom he'd like to share. Must be able to host. Respect all limits, into everything, discipline, nipple play, etc. North of Boston. Box 20842 (xp1/16)
BI GUY IN RHODE ISLAND
Seeking CD/TV/TS for some fun times together. Box 98252 (xp2/12)
CLEAN AND SAFE
BiWM, 41, Connecticut, 6', 175lbs, brown/brown, slim, smooth body, well-endowed, very kinky, oral, into 69, cross-dressing, toys, showers. Looking for somebody for fun times. You host. Box 86602 (xp2/7)
I AM...
a hungry pig bottom looking for a hungry pig top who can host. Willing to do as you wish, just ask! BM, 6', 7'' cut. Box 11372 (xp2/12)
CAPE COD
Top male, 6', brown/blue, 7'' cut, 165lbs, shaved c**ck and balls, loves to top a hot ass. Love sexy pump and dump anonymous scenes. Box 44822 (xp2/13)
DISCREET HOOK UPS
I work third shift and I'm looking for discreet hookups when I'm not at work. Box 44862 (xp2/11)
LAY BACK
I love s**cking d**ks; big ones, small ones, it doesn't even matter. If you're interested in blowing your load on my face and chest, call me! Box 11382 (xp1/4)
TOP SEEKS BOTTOM
Married WM, 46, 5'9'', 150lbs, black/hazel, mustache, top, looking for bottom to take me to completion. Just outside Boston. Box 41461 (xp1/25)
ITALIAN STALLION
Italian, dark hair and eyes, 5'8'', 150lbs, moderately hairy, muscular, nicely hung. Stamford CT. Hit me up for some fun. Box 40971 (xp2/6)
LOOKING TO HOOK UP
Masculine, handsome GWM, versatile bottom, looking for another guy to have some fun with. Box 97611 (xp11/23)
I LOVE ORAL
BiM, 55, loves giving and receiving oral. Looking for other guys to get down and busy with. Box 93441 (xp2/6)
YOUR PLACE
Male, 5'10'', black/brown, discreet, gives great head, cannot host. Looking for a friend. Box 96731 (xp2/5)
I LOVE TO S*CK
Just a top looking to s**ck on a nice, thick c**k. Anything goes orally. Box 92651 (xp11/21)
MARRIED GUY ISO CDS
5'8'', 165lbs, blond/brown, athletic build, looking for discreet encounters with CDs. Just want to meet some nice guys who like to dress up in lingerie and dresses. You must host. I'm in Rhode Island. Box 36931 (xp1/10)
BI-CURIOUS
Married WM, 6', 30s, strong, muscular body, handsome, inexperienced, looking for another male, Latin or Hispanic preferred.D/D-free. Box 44591 (xp12/3)
HOT AND HORNY
28, looking for other hot and horny guys, 18-35. I have black hair, brown eyes, weigh 145lbs with a swimmer's build, 5'7''. Box 96971 (xp12/23)
WHERE ARE ALL THE HOT C*CKS?
I have a big, thick, hairy c**k full of c**m, ready to have a good time! Anything goes! Box 36921 (xp2/3)
LOOKING FOR SOME FUN
Straight white male, 65, looking for somebody to make me feel good.Box 58391 (xp12/18)
RECIPROCATION APPRECIATED BUT...
...not necessary. Married BiWM, 43, 5'8'', 175lbs, attractive, safe, clean, needs to be discreet, looking to s**ck c**k and get my c**k s**ked. Love to have you shoot off on my face. Box 44541 (xp2/7)
ORAL RELATIONS
I love to s**ck c**k and I'm looking for another guy who does, too. We can do it naked, or you can wear panties and heels. Shoot your load all over my face! I'm 60, 5'8'', 175lbs, in Quincy and hoping you are also on the South Shore. Box 95701 (xp2/6)
I LOVE ORAL
Male, 43, 5'6'', 150lbs, slightly feminine, submissive, total bottom loves giving oral sex. Seeking nice, masculine guy in the South Shore area for fun, possible relationship. Box 49691 (xp2/7)
LET'S WRESTLE
Looking for guys who like to wrestle in spandex and tight shorts. Box 37151 (xp11/30)
I LOVE KINK
5'11'', 170lbs, clean, discreet, bi, has a girlfriend, looking to be tied up while wearing panties. Saugus area. Can you host? Box 10061 (xp12/20)
LAY BACK AND RELAX
58 year-old guy, 5'7'', 150lbs, Billerica area, looking for guys who like to lay back and have their d**cks stroked, squeezed and played with. Box 52791 (xp1/5)
TOP OR BOTTOM
Seeking guys who want to have a threesome. I can be a top or a bottom. I'm 5'8'', 170lbs, brown/green, nice bubble butt, 7'' cut. Box 87761 (xp1/13)
ISO HOT OLDER MEN
I want to be forced to have a good time. I'm hot, horny and have a nice c**k filled with c**m. Call me, let's get together! Box 36921 (xp2/9)
BACK BAY/SOUTH END
Male, 29, 6',165lbs, black/brown, clean-shaven, seeks nice, hot guys. I love jocks, students, boy next door types, guys who wear biker shorts, spandex or tight athletic wear. I'm a top, love s**cking c**k, making out, body contact. Box 37131 (xp2/10)

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Meet Heloise. She lives in Paris where she studies art history and works in a raw food restaurant. She is wearing the Wool Cape in Tan, Fisherman's Pullover in Cream, Cotton Solid Thigh-High Sock in Taupe, Wool Beret in Biscotti, and Acrylic Fingerless Glove in Black.

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